



THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,661

MONDAY 13 JULY 1998

(1R50p) 45p

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John Walshe: my fear of La Paglia

Ulster prepares for its saddest march: behind three small coffins

By DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

WHATEVER HAPPENS at today's Orange Order parades, and however the Drumcree confrontation ends, tomorrow will see the heart-rending journey of three under-sized coffins to premature graves.

The Quinn boys - Richard, 10, Mark, 9, and Jason, 7 - are dead, burnt to death in a sectarian incident which delivered a shocking, sickening jolt to anyone with a heart. It caused all locked in the dispute to pause for a moment, and some to wonder whether they might have contributed to the tragedy.

The three boys, whose mother is Catholic, died in the flames when their Co Antrim home was petrol-bombed by loyalists at 4 am yesterday. A neighbour who saw the bodies said the boys could not be told apart. Their uncle said the scene at the hospital was "pure nightmare".

Whatever happens, the survivors in the Quinn family have, through one hate-filled act, been condemned to a world of grief and irredeemable loss. Years from now, when Drumcree stand-offs have become just a disagreeable memory for everyone else, their pain and sorrow will live on.

On Friday, a senior police officer warned on television: "I can only hope that those who would claim to have control of this situation will stop it because someone is going to be killed - of that there is no doubt." He was speaking about the Drumcree stand-off itself, but as it happened the deaths came many miles away, in the comparatively peaceful north Antrim town of Ballymoney.

Many parents who have lost sons in the violence have said they hoped their deaths would make a difference, would help end the conflict. Let our death, they say, be the last, let no one else suffer as we are suffering.

Sadly, those hopes have never been borne out, for although the stream of death has diminished it has never completely ceased. But yesterday there were grounds for hoping that this time it might be different for these deaths have shaken everyone: perhaps this time the sacrifice may have some meaning, and some lasting effect.



The Quinn brothers, who were killed in the arson attack in the early hours of yesterday morning on a house in Ballymoney, Co Antrim. They are, left to right, Jason, 7, Mark, 9, and Richard 10. The fourth brother, Lee, behind, was staying with his grandparents when the attack happened

In the aftermath of the atrocity, Protestant and Unionist leaders called on Portadown Orangemen to call off their week-long protest and go home. It was a dark week, with hundreds of disturbances and acts of violence in many parts of Northern Ireland.

At Drumcree itself, where loyalist rioters hushed aside staid older Orangemen and nightly attacked police and troops with bricks and bottles, and sometimes with bullets and nail-bombs, the situation was clearly out of the Order's control.

And out on the streets it was obvious that rogue paramilitants and hooligan elements were answerable to no one. The petrol-bombing of the modest terrace house in the town of Ballymoney was just one of scores of attacks, many of them on the homes of Catholics isolated in main-

ly Protestant districts. The first Orangeman to call for an end yesterday was the Rev William Bingham, the Armagh county grand chaplain, who last week was along the Orange delegation which met Tony Blair in Downing Street.

In a clearly heartfelt address to his Presbyterian congregation Mr Bingham, who was wearing his Orange sash, he said he had wept for the three boys, adding: "I believe the Orange Order needs to back off from its protest because we cannot control it."

That sentiment spread throughout the day. The Church of Ireland archbishop, Robin Eames, declared of the Orangemen: "I now believe the time has come. They have made their point. They should leave the entire Drumcree area. They should return to their homes."

This was echoed by David Trimble, First Minister of Northern Ireland. In a joint statement with his deputy, Seamus Mallon, he said: "We appeal to the Orangemen at Drumcree to immediately end their protest and return to their homes. Nothing can be gained from continuing this stand-off."

Their directness followed a period when senior Protestant representatives had, their critics charged, tended to sit on the fence during the disturbances, seeking sanctuary in silence or generalisations or obscurity. A former Irish prime minister yesterday described some of them as "speaking in riddles".

This was to some extent a reflection of opinion across the Protestant and Unionist community, where many normally vociferous representatives opted for prudent muteness.

Many disapproved of the violence, but on the other hand did not want the Orangemen to suffer a defeat which might impact on Unionist morale in general.

The Quinn murders have, however, apparently settled the issue, with Protestant opinion horrified and traumatised, and concluding that the episode should be drawn to a close as quickly and as quietly as possible.

One sign of this was the speedy dismantling of the Orange "freedom camp" where Orangemen had sat outside the Hillsborough Castle residence of Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

They departed during the afternoon, leaving behind three wreaths for the Quinn boys. Ms Mowlam herself pronounced an emotional epitaph for the boys: "Last night a family in Ballymoney went to bed as a family. When they woke up their morning three members, three young boys - Richard, Mark and Jason - were dead."

"I ask people to reflect, to look into their hearts for one moment and think what they can do to make sure another family does not have to go through what those three boys went through last night."

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New official code will fall short of ban on lobbyists

NEW CODES of conduct for ministers' special advisers will not ban contacts with lobbyists, in spite of the continuing storm over alleged privileged access for lobbyists and the Government.

Downing Street is hoping new codes of conduct for ministers' special advisers this week will snuff out the continuing controversy over access to the Government by ex-Labour Party lobbyists.

Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary, is expected to recommend that all senior civil servants should be reminded forcefully that they face the sack for divulging privileged information.

Sir Richard will acknowledge that there is a legitimate role for lobbyists, providing it is kept above board but one Cabinet minister said he would not see any organisation fronted by a lobby firm. "I'll tell them to write to me," he said.

He said the reports had been particularly damaging among middle England voters.

The codes of conduct will also reinforce the rule, brought in under Tony Blair, that all advisers must seek the approval of their permanent secretaries before taking up employment in

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

the private sector and there should be a cooling-off period if there is any suggestion of influence on the Government.

Senior Cabinet ministers are alarmed that the row centring on the "bragging" claims of Mr Draper, a former adviser to Peter Mandelson, about access to ministers have tarred the new Labour Government with the same sleazy brush as the last Tory Government.

They are hoping the Wilson codes will draw a line under the saga. They also want Mr Blair to bring forward the planned reshuffle of the Government to this week, instead of the end of July, to underline the message that he has a grip on events.

Downing Street is angry that the controversy has threatened to overshadow the Chancellor's statement tomorrow in which he will deliver about £10bn extra for the NHS over three years to allow Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, to tackle waiting lists, and a slightly smaller amount for education, enabling David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, to bring forward from 2002 to 2001 the pledge to reduce class



Peter Mandelson, who has come under attack

sizes. He will also give an extra 13 per cent to poorer pensioners, raising couples' state pensions from next April to £116.60.

There is irritation bordering on indignation in Downing Street at the way the Government has been blown off course by the newspaper claims, which aides pointed out yesterday did not amount to wrongdoing by ministers.

Ministers said it would damage the lobbyists, who now would be kept at arms' length by Whitehall departments.

Two of the lobbying firms at the centre of the "cash-for-access" row are to be carpeted by their colleagues this week at a

crisis summit aimed at staving off new controls which could put the industry out of business.

GPC Market Access - from which Mr Draper resigned this week - and GJW, which has already apologised for leaking a House of Commons select committee report - have each been asked to send a director to the meeting tomorrow.

The Association of Professional Political Consultants - the lobbyists' trade association - will demand proof that the firms have acted to ensure a similar scandal could not happen again, association secretary Charles Miller said.

The Independent has learnt that Mr Blair has no intention of introducing statutory controls on lobbyists. "We are leaving it up to the industry to clean up their act," said a Whitehall source. The Government is relying on the Wilson report to show that it is putting its own house in order.

Mr Draper said yesterday on GMTV: "If you look at what people are now saying, it looks as if people are having a go at Peter Mandelson via me, and as someone who thinks of themselves as a friend of Peter Mandelson, I'm not pleased."

Balls accused, page 6

Japan's election shock threatens financial crisis

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
in Tokyo

THE JAPANESE prime minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, is expected to resign this afternoon after a shocking election defeat that will add to anxiety about Japan's political and economic crisis.

The demise of Mr Hashimoto, half-way through carrying out crucial reforms to Japan's banking and financial systems, will be received anxiously in stock and currency markets around the world and by foreign governments who fear that Japan's recession may drag down their own economies.

"The party's supporters did their best," Mr Hashimoto said early this morning. "I feel this is my responsibility due to my lack of capability. The matter of responsibility is something for me personally to decide." He is expected to resign formally later today, along with other senior politicians, at a lunchtime meeting of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

In Singapore, the finance minister, Richard Hu, warned that Hashimoto's defeat could have knock-on effects throughout south-east Asia, whose own financial crisis is being pro-

longed by the recession in Japan. "The biggest problem is not even here," he said. "It's Japan. What happens in Japan would have a large impact on the whole region, including us."

The appointment of a new prime minister and cabinet will create confusion at a time when crucial economic decisions still need to be made.

Economists predicted a choppy day on stock exchanges around the world. "I don't think this result is positive for markets," said Ron Bevacqua, an economist at Merrill Lynch in Tokyo. "Uncertainty is a bad thing and right now there is too much uncertainty."

In voting for half of the seats in Japan's upper house, the LDP was on course to gain just 44 out of 126 seats, compared with the 61 it was defending. The recently formed Democratic Party and the Communists made big gains, thanks to an unexpectedly high turn-out by young voters disgusted by the government's incompetent handling of the economy.

"Many Japanese people showed a red card to the Hashimoto cabinet and the LDP," said Naoto Kan, the Democratic Party leader.

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A house in flames, a street in tears

BY KIM SENGUPTA

HE WAS A BIG MAN with tattoos, carrying a bunch of flowers. His head was bowed, but when he looked up his eyes were full of tears. Trusting the bunch to a policeman he said: "I am sorry, I am so very sorry." The officer, a young man, put down the flowers on a growing pile, then he pulled out a handkerchief and wiped his eyes. An older colleague patted his shoulder.

Even here in Ulster where people had been forced to endure all types of terrible events, the burning to death of three young Catholic brothers as they slept in their home has had a numbing effect. There has been an outpouring of anger and grief, but also a sense of emptiness at the sheer grotesque ferocity of the sectarian hatred unleashed with the Orange Order's siege at Drumcree.

Statistically Richard, Mark and Jason Quinn were the first fatalities of the current round of violence. In life they were boys aged 10, 9 and 7 who were loved. Their mother Chrissie, 29, who had minor injuries, was also suffering from shock. A fourth son, Lee, was staying with his grandmother. Miss Quinn's partner, Raymond Craig, 31, received cuts when he escaped by jumping through a bedroom window. A family friend who stayed the night - Christine Archibald, 18 - also survived.

Friends and relations who visited Miss Quinn yesterday at hospital said she seemed unable to take in what had happened. Soon afterwards she discharged herself against the wishes of the doctors.

The Quinn family lived in the predominantly Protestant Carnary estate in Ballymoney, in the Protestant stronghold of Antrim. They were - as they say in these parts - a mixed family. Chrissie's mother, Irene, was a Protestant who had married a Catholic, Francis, and all six children had been brought up as Catholics. Chrissie had married John Dillon, a Catholic, who was the boys' father.

Recently the family moved briefly to England where the couple split up. Miss Quinn returned to Northern Ireland with the boys and they went to a Protestant school in Ballymoney. Her new boyfriend, Mr Craig was a Protestant.

As loyalist fury erupted with the banning of the Orange Order march through the Garvaghy Road, Ballymoney had its share of road blocks at minor rioting points. Last weekend some Catholic families in the area received letters telling them to get out, and in the last week there had been a spate of low-level ethnic cleansing in County Down and



The leader of the Democratic Unionist party, the Rev Ian Paisley, walks past the burned-out house on the Carnary estate in Ballymoney, County Antrim where the three Quinn brothers died in an arson attack earlier yesterday morning
Kieran Doherty/Reuters

County Antrim homes of Catholics, and those of mixed marriages had come under attack.

The last hours of Richard, Mark and Jason are unclear. What is known is that police had cleared the barricades and dispersed a demonstration on the main road outside the estate the previous evening. It ap-

pears that their home had been deliberately targeted. The adjoining houses to the yellow fronted mid-terrace property, some flying Union flags and flags of Ulster had remained untouched.

The petrol bombing took place around 4.30 in the morning - a neighbour heard a banging noise

then. The fire took hold rapidly and spread. The emergency services, by all accounts, were quickly at the scene but were too late to save the three brothers, although some police officers were injured trying to do so. A neighbour - who feared retaliation if she was identified - heard one little boy screaming in terror in

tears. The first member of the family to realise that something awful had happened was Chrissie's cousin Shirley Patton, who lives around 100 yards away in the same estate. She is a Protestant, and an Ulster flag flutters over her doorway.

Watching the media fire crews and police officers congregating at

the estate, Miss Patton, standing at the doorway of her home, recalled: "I was asleep at the time, I was woken up by the fire engines coming in, I looked out of the window and the way those engines went I thought about Chrissie. I knew very soon afterwards what had happened - the fire was absolutely terrible, it

was an awful, awful thing to happen." Mrs Patton called her father and yesterday morning they visited Miss Quinn at the hospital. "Physically she appeared to be alright, but she barely ever spoke. I don't think she has understood what has happened. How can any mother?"

Mrs Patton has son of 11, Russell, and all four of the Quinn brothers often used to come and play. "They are all lovely and very friendly. I am not aware of Chrissie having any problems. I thought people got on well with each other here. But we have heard about some Catholic families who have received threatening letters asking them to get out. I saw those kids just yesterday you know..." her voice faded away.

Shirley Patton's father, Robert, a National Trust Worker is also Protestant. He said: "We are a mixed family and we all got on with each other. But the people who did this are not Protestants. They are scum, and I hope they are caught. What were the boys like? Well they were just boys who deserved to grow up - and live."

In the pouring rain of a cold summer day yesterday, neighbours of the Quinns stood around to watch as forensic specialists trooped in and out of the house. A group on a corner stressed that whoever had done this was not local, and the words "scum" and "bastards" was used repeatedly to describe the perpetrators. As they walked off, one woman standing by herself who would only give her Christian name, Margaret, said: "How do they know it was not someone from around here? I think they are just afraid to even recognise the fact it could be someone they know. People have been doing some horrible things in the last week, something like this was going to happen. There are people, politicians, who could have spoke up against all this, but they did not."

The Reverend Ian Paisley visited the estate and described the murders as "diabolical" and "repugnant". Accompanied by his son, Ian Paisley Jr, he also visited Miss Quinn in hospital.

A funeral mass for the three boys will take place tomorrow at the Church of Our Lady and Saint Patrick in Ballymoney, with the burial afterwards in Rasharkin, where their grandmother lives. A number of local Protestants have said they would like to attend. One of them, a former soldier, Phillip Anderson said: "It is important to show how much we despise this. It is important to show that despite whatever outsiders think, the common people around here do care."

Intimidation tactic that turned into tragedy

THE FIRE which caused the horrific deaths of the three Quinn children was a disaster waiting to happen, a near-inevitable consequence of unleashing the forces of anarchy and disorder on Northern Ireland.

With around 2,000 acts of violence in the last eight days, including more than 500 incidents in which petrol-bombs were used, the statistical likelihood was that eventually somebody would die.

Yet it is quite possible that those responsible for the horrific deaths of the Quinn children did not specifically have murder in mind when they went to their home with their petrol-bombs at four in the morning yesterday.

Petrol-bomb attacks on homes have been so numerous over the years that they have come to be generally regarded as incidents of intimidation rather than attempted murder. Although on occasion they take life in the most dreadful manner, the fact is that attacks on homes prove lethal in perhaps one case in a thousand.

BY DAVID MCKYTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

The most common result is scorch damage and a shocked family. The classic petrol-bomb attack on a house is aimed at driving Catholic families, or mixed marriages, out of predominantly Protestant areas. These generally reach a peak in July, when loyalist feelings run high.

The pattern is partly due to demographics. Because the number of Catholic families has risen steadily over the last three decades, Catholic areas tend to experience overcrowding. As a result there is overspill into Protestant districts.

Many people on the loyalist side are both intensely sectarian and intensely territorial, and when the blood is up they often turn their attentions to the nearest Catholic residents, who are generally easy and often entirely defenceless targets. Local paramilitaries, or more often local sub-paramilitary hooligans, use the petrol-bomb to send Catholics "back where they belong".

Another pattern is that of Catholic families living happily in Protestant districts for many years, only to be attacked at times of high tension. The result is the same: shocked and scared families stacking their possessions, as quickly as possible, into furniture vans, a farewell to the family home and a move into emergency housing. Sometimes there are threats beforehand: the warning of "Get out or you'll be burnt out" is a familiar one; sometimes the petrol-bomb is the first indication that it is time to go.

The first lethal act of the 1960s, some years before the Troubles escalated into large-scale violence, was a petrol-bombing. In May 1966, Matilda Gould, a Protestant widow in her seventies, was fatally injured by a petrol-bomb thrown by loyalists in the Shankill Road district of Belfast.

They were aiming for a Catholic bar next door, but hit Mrs Gould's house instead. A rescuer said: "I heard a woman saying there was an old crippled woman in the house. When I looked behind the door in the

front room I saw an old woman lying there. We lifted her and carried her out."

In August 1976, a young Catholic couple and their 10-month old baby died when loyalists petrol-bombed their home in north Belfast. The bodies of the three were found in a bedroom, Joseph Dempsey holding his baby in his arms.

In 1991, again in north Belfast, a woman who had converted to Catholicism from Protestantism when she married died in a similar attack, together with her 16-year-old son. Two local teenagers were later jailed for 15 years for the killings. The court was told they had bought 36 pounds-worth of petrol, poured it through the letter box and set it alight before returning to an all-night party.

One of the youths said their intention had only been to frighten the family. The other youth said he had been "a really stupid idiot" and had later thought of killing himself. During the trial he jumped up, thumped the dock and shouted: "No one was meant to die."

Reward of £100,000 offered to track down arsonists

ORANGE LEADERS were meeting last night amid growing pressure to abandon the Garvaghy Road march, while Orangemen at Drumcree itself stood firm, insisting they were not to blame for the burning to death of the three brothers at their Co Antrim home.

A £100,000 reward was offered by Chelsea Football Club chairman Ken Bates, raised a Protestant and now a "lapsed Catholic convert", who said the young victims could have been his own grandchildren.

The shock of the deaths of the brothers provoked a reduction of potential conflict over

flashpoint parades elsewhere. Nationalist residents in Keady, Co Armagh called off a protest against an Orange parade last night as a mark of respect for the children.

And in the lower Ormeau Road in south Belfast, nationalist residents made a similar announcement. As their mark of respect, protest against today's parade by Orangemen would be peaceful and dignified, non-confrontational and would not block the route, they said.

The Army and police moved into the area earlier yesterday and put it under virtual siege in advance of threatened protest.

But after the announcement by the Lower Ormeau Concerned Community, the RUC said it had begun to scale down its operation.

The LOCC said it would have a "silent, peaceful, non-confrontational" black-flag protest on the pavement on one side of the Ormeau Road as the parade goes down. No attempt to block the route or physically hamper the parade will be made.

The RUC assistant chief constable for Belfast, Bill Stewart, said: "This is good news for the whole community."

The Prime Minister, Tony

Blair, branded the murders as "barbaric". He said: "Evil and vicious sectarian murders must not be allowed to triumph over the clear will of the majority of right and good thinking people who want to pursue a future of peace in Northern Ireland."

And the RUC chief constable, Ronnie Flanagan, told Orangemen that enough was enough. While there was a right to march and a right to protest, "people should now reassess their position, people should take stock. I think the loss of life of three children as they slept in their beds changes everything."

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IND10

Why not change the way we work? BT

University chiefs waste £1m



Higher Education Business Enterprises chairman John Ashworth. He was formerly director of the London School of Economics (centre), and has since moved to the British Library (right)



BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

An attempt to exploit the commercial potential of higher education has collapsed – and the affair goes to the heart of academic establishment

A COMPANY set up with loans of more than £700,000 from universities to exploit the commercial potential of British higher education has collapsed after losing more than £1.1m.

Universities, currently bidding for up to £1bn a year from the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, are being asked to write off interest-free loans of £724,000 used to bankroll the operation.

Higher Education Business Enterprises (HEBE) was intended to run careers fairs and offer a range of services for universities, but losses spiralled.

The affair goes to the heart of the British academic establishment. The company is owned and controlled by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) and the Standing Conference of Principals (SCOP), the two or-

ganisations which represent the men and women who run higher education in Britain.

A letter seen by *The Independent* asks vice-chancellors and principals to write off their loans to allow the committee to wind up the venture.

It said: "Some parts of the HEBE group were, as you know, loss making and there are insufficient funds after settling all external preferential creditors to repay the loans."

In fact, losses at the company and its subsidiaries mounted. Latest accounts show the overall balance sheet £1.14m in the red.

The losses do not, however, appear in the committee's own books. Its accounts for the last financial year were qualified by auditors because they exclude details of the finances of HEBE

and other subsidiaries, in contravention of Charity Commission guidelines.

HEBE was set up in 1991, under the chairmanship of John Ashworth, former vice-chancellor of Salford University and director of the London School of Economics, now chairman of the British Library.

The company struck deals with the *Times* newspaper to publish postgraduate course listings and with the *Guardian* to run careers fairs.

But insiders say the operation was hindered by a lack of market research and planning. Faced with recession in the early 1990s, losses mounted.

Confidential minutes show that when leading vice-chancellors discussed the scale of the problem in 1996, it led to calls for them to withdraw com-

pletely from commercial activities.

The venture grew out of the expansion of student numbers in the late 1980s. Vice-chancellors jumped at the chance finally to make a commercial success out of the growing popularity of university study.

HEBE invested £200,000 in a joint venture with *The Guardian*, Education and Jobs Fairs Limited, a firm set up to exploit the growing market in careers fairs. It also established Official Mailing Services Limited, to specialise in the bulk distribution of prospectuses.

A trio of companies, called Further, Higher and Post-16 Education in the UK, suggested further expansion to come.

Initially, the prospects looked good. Careers fairs were

organised at venues across the country and HEBE sealed a deal to publish postgraduate course listings in the *Times*, and the *Times Higher Education Supplement*.

But as early as 1993, the CVCP's ruling council was being warned about mounting losses. One insider described the situation within parts of the operation as "shambolic".

By 1995, senior figures within the committee had decided to halt the enterprise.

The vice-chancellors' incoming chairman, Professor Gareth Roberts, of Sheffield University, called in the Mid-*desex* University chief, Professor David Melville, now chief executive of the Further Education Funding Council, to take charge. He acted swiftly, bringing in Tony Higgins, chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service to launch a rescue operation.

Professor Melville reported back to the CVCP's ruling council on 16 February 1996. The attendance list at the meeting read like a *Who's Who* of higher education. Among the assembled knights and professors was Baroness Blackstone, now Minister of State at the Department for Education and Employment, from Birkbeck College, London. The se-

nior member of staff present was Diana Warwick, CVCP chief executive, later to become a member of the Neill Committee on Standards in Public Life.

The web of companies created around HEBE was so complex that the original timetable for closing down the operation would not be met. Estimates for the bill just to restructure the group ran as high as £350,000; the eventual bill was just under £300,000.

Christine Hodgson, now head of information at the University of East London, was a director of the company until 1993. She said: "The first years were a very good bargain for universities who for about £1,000 were able to have stands at as many fairs as they could manage without paying extra money."

"What I think went wrong was when the fairs became too ambitious and hired venues which were too expensive and their costs were not covered."

The group's direct mailing arm, Official Mailing Services Limited, also ran into problems. It lost nearly £130,000 during its first year, and by 1996, losses had grown to £374,507.

The full extent of the group's overall losses only started to emerge in HEBE's 1996 accounts, which had plunged £835,961 into the red.

Professor John Bull, CVCP treasurer, said he believed the venture had been a success. The company had been closed to



Baroness Blackstone: Attended crisis meeting

simplify the committee's structure, he said. "If HEBE had continued we would have seen these losses largely eliminated and some growth started."

Dr Asworth insists that universities got good value for their money. "The money was really very small," he said. "The value was very great. If I was doing it again, I would do it in quite a different way. The trouble was there was never the will to make it successful. It was an experiment. It failed, but then, so do many experiments."

But last night Don Foster, Liberal Democrat education spokesman, said: "It is important that this matter is brought into the public domain so people have an opportunity to find out what went wrong and if public money was wasted."

Banks looks at Bill to curb boxing

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

TONY BANKS, the sports minister, yesterday said he would "look seriously" at a backbench Bill to curb hits to the head in boxing to make the sport safer and limit cases of brain damage.

But Mr Banks made it clear the Government "has no plans" to introduce legislation limiting blows to the head in boxing, scotching weekend reports which suggested that a backbench measure to be introduced this week by Paul Flynn, the Labour MP, is being supported by ministers.

Mr Flynn's Bill stands no chance of reaching the statute book due to lack of time, unless it is taken up by one of the winners in the ballot of MPs in November to introduce private member's Bills.

But his Bill has raised the issue of head injuries in boxing. Barry McGuigan, the former WBA featherweight champion, told the paper the proposal was ridiculous.

"The head is a target as much as the body," he said. "You can't have a true test of a boxer's mettle unless he is able to take a punch to the head."

Mr Flynn said action was needed to protect boxers after a year which had seen three bouts resulting in boxers requiring neurosurgery.

Mr Banks, on BBC's Breakfast with Frost, said: "We have got to look at ways of making boxing safer."

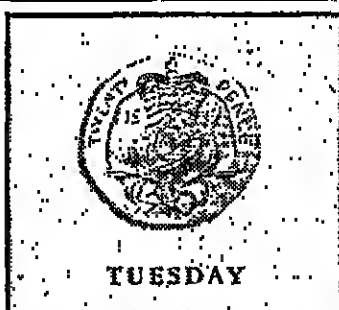
The minister, a boxing fan, said he did not want to give the impression he did not care "a monkey's toss" about boxing injuries. He told a journalist that he would look at the bill, but be dismissed as "excessive" and "journalist hyperbole" week-

end reports that he was supporting action against boxing. "I'm going to look at a bill that I think we've always got to look at ways of trying to make boxing safer but the Government actually has no plans," he said.

Fears that blows to the head during boxing matches could cause brain damage have circled around the sport for years, leading to calls for it to be banned. Annual brain scans have been introduced for all professional boxers.

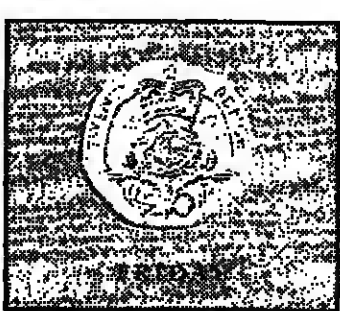
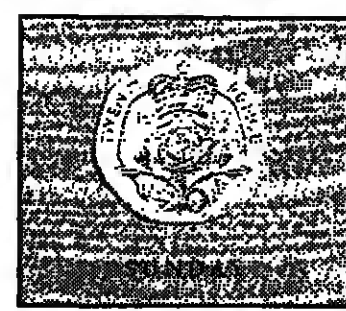
Disallowing head punches, as blows below the belt are, would be akin to taking tacking out of rugby, according to the British Boxing Board of Control general secretary John Morris.

Leading article, Review, page 3



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IN BRIEF

Soldiers arrested over rape

FOUR BRITISH soldiers were being questioned by military police over an alleged rape, the Ministry of Defence said yesterday.

The four, who are based in Germany, are being questioned over the rape of a 27-year-old British woman who is the daughter of a fellow soldier. An investigation began after an incident in Bergen, northern Germany, in the early hours of Saturday morning. The four men being questioned are serving with the 7th Armoured Division, based in Bergen. A MoD spokesman said all four men were under "close arrest" at their barracks.

As no German nationals are involved in the alleged attack, the inquiry is being handled by the Military Police Special Investigations Branch.

Child killed by Alsatian

POLICE LAUNCHED an investigation after an 11-week-old baby girl died from injuries after an attack by the family's pet Alsatian dog.

Officers and an ambulance crew were called on Saturday to a house in Caerphilly, South Wales, and the baby was taken to East Glamorgan Hospital but was dead on arrival. Gwent police said the family's five-year-old German Shepherd had been put in the care of a local vet.

A Home Office pathologist was called in to carry out a post-mortem examination on the child.

Murder charge

A MAN has been charged with murdering stable girl Victoria Bell, who was found dead at her home in Newmarket, Suffolk, last Friday night. Ms Bell, 20, who worked for leading racing trainer Chris Wall, was believed to have died shortly after returning from Mr Wall's yard after having spent the day working at Lingfield races. Andrew Cable, a roofing contractor, 22, will appear before magistrates at Bury St Edmund's today.

Lottery winners

The winning numbers in Saturday's lottery were 3, 39, 14, 23, 43, 30; bonus 32. Twelve tickets won the £20m jackpot.

JOHN PRESCOTT

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— THE MONDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

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Holidays bonanza: Boost for travel agents as World Cup ends and holidaymakers search for a place in the sun

Britain flees the summer torrents

AS HEAVY rain and strong winds swept Britain yesterday, travel agents were counting the takings from one of their most profitable weekends of the year.

"The weather and the World Cup are playing an extraordinary part in the surge in demand," a spokesman for the Manchester-based agency chain Co-op Travelcare said yesterday. He estimated sales had increased by 10 per cent on the previous week.

Most travellers are fleeing a dreary patch of unseasonable weather which is set to plague the country for the next few days, starting with a wave of showers which will sweep across much of the country.

Rob Bunn, a London-based weather forecaster, said: "It is going to be deeply unseasonable with gale-force winds in some places. There could even be localised flooding in Northern Ireland and Scotland,

By SIMON CALDER
Travel Editor

which will bear the brunt of the weather."

Although the wind and rain are unlikely to be bad enough to cause generalised flooding, sudden downpours on dry ground will lead to large quantities of surface water, he added.

The World Cup is being blamed for poor sales of holidays over the past month, though bookings increased after England's exit from the tournament. Jeremy Skidmore, editor of the trade journal *Travel Weekly*, said: "The only people in Britain who didn't want to leave David Beckham were the tour operators."

Many customers are seeking late bargains, but those are drying up rapidly as the school holidays approach. Spain remains the favourite package destination, attracting around 40 per



Tourists seek shelter as unseasonable weather dampens spirits at the Tower of London. Rain is expected across the country for several more days. Kalpesh Lathigra

cent of the 10.5 million Britons expected to buy an overseas package holiday this summer. "There has been a real resurgence of short-haul destinations, largely due to the strength of sterling," Russell Amerasekera, a director of

Britain's largest travel group, Thomson, said. "Britons are returning to Spain in droves. The Algarve has also done well."

While much of southern Europe is enjoying fine weather and reasonable temperatures after the roasting heat of last

week, the Sunday crowds failed to materialise at Britain's resorts yesterday.

Francis McGinty, proprietor of the bar at the end of Southend pier in Essex, said: "Compared with the same weekend last year, business is

probably down by two-thirds." For the year so far, though, Mr McGinty said visitor numbers to Britain's longest pier have been about the same as in 1997 because of the good weather in January and February.

The long-haul market has suffered because of bad publicity about health standards in the Dominican Republic, which had previously enjoyed rapid growth. But independent travellers are set to benefit from scheduled fares to Australia and North

America well below normal. Last night an Air France Boeing 777 took off from Paris for Rio de Janeiro with many seats unsold and empty - travellers had postponed their flights in order to watch the World Cup Final.

Six travel tips from a world of bargains

THESE ARE the places to aim for if you want a quick getaway, writes Simon Calder, Travel Editor.

FARES to Australia on scheduled airlines have plumbed new depths this year, with prices below £500 return for the past few months. In previous years, the bargains had dried up by mid-July. But the Indonesian airline Garuda is finding bookings so poor that it is offering, through discount agents, tickets from London to Melbourne or Sydney for around £460 right through to mid-December.

TO TRY to kick-start business to France in the aftermath of the World Cup, SeaFrance is selling a five-day return fare of

£89 for a car and up to four passengers between Dover and Calais. Bookings must be made by close of business tomorrow. **FLIGHTS** between Britain and Nice are highly competitive: this month AB Airlines became the fifth scheduled carrier on the route, and is offering flights on its new service from Gatwick for £109 return. **ATHENS**, where EasyJet begins flights on Thursday, could be the scene of an air fares battle later in the summer. The Luton-based no-frills airline is entering a market where four scheduled airlines already compete, with one-way fares starting at £69.

AS AIR FARES to Europe rise steeply, Eurostar trains to

France and beyond look increasingly attractive. The company, which runs trains through the Channel Tunnel to Paris and Brussels, has an inflexible pricing policy which for most of the year cannot compete with the low-cost airlines. In summer, though, a price of £99 to any station in Holland represents remarkably good value. **IN MOST** summers, capacity across the North Atlantic is almost sold out by this time of year. But the frenetic competition on the world's busiest international air route - London Heathrow to New York JFK - means that discount fares of around £360 return are widely available on quality airlines throughout August.

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New safeguards for breast implants

A "COOLING-OFF" period for women planning to have breast enlargements will be one of the measures recommended in a government report published tomorrow on the safety of silicone gel implants.

The new guidelines are designed to ensure that potential health risks are properly spelt out to women wanting silicone breast implants.

The recommendation means women will have to wait several days between seeing a surgeon and having the operation in order to consider fully any possible health risks.

It comes as part of a government inquiry into the safety of breast implants ordered last year by Baroness Jay after concern about the advice given to women before surgery.

Around 100,000 women in Britain have already had breast

By CATHY COMERFORD

implants. Although there is no hard medical evidence to suggest they are unsafe, the inquiry will call for the situation to be closely monitored. The review panel of six experts will recommend that surgeons have to register details of all implant operations in the UK with the National Breast Implant Registry in order to help research into the effects of silicone implants.

The report comes only days after American implant manufacturers, Dow Corning, announced a compensation package of £2bn for damages claims brought by 170,000 women, including hundreds of British women.

Although the company has denied any liability, it has agreed to pay out to all its claimants.

Compensation funds worth more than \$6bn were set up by the main manufacturers after cosmetic silicone implants were banned in the United States in 1992. Companies took the decision because they calculated it would save them tens of billions of dollars in legal costs, even if they won, and no liability was admitted.

The ban by the US Food and Drug Administration was imposed, not because the implants were deemed unsafe, but because manufacturers failed to collect information on the issue, as they were legally required to do.

The Government report falls short of the UK ban which pressure groups had hoped for and concludes there is not enough evidence to back up claims that implants can cause arthritis-related illnesses.

BA denies tail-fin change

THE FACT that British Airways' boss Richard Ayling is colour-blind is irrelevant to his widely criticised choice of ethnic art tailfins introduced last year, a BA spokeswoman said yesterday.

Yes, Mr Ayling does suffer from colour blindness, press officer Amanda Poole said. And yes, this does mean that BA's chief executive, who gave the go-ahead to the £60m multi-colour revamp, cannot distinguish between reds and greens.

But his condition did not affect his choice of designs, she added. He made his decision after discussions with a team of BA staff.

Less than one year after its

By SUZANNA CHAMBERS

launch, Mr Ayling is "absolutely behind" the new image, as is the company which has no intention of replacing it with another more "British" design, Ms Poole said.

Her comments followed reports that the airline was being forced to axe the £60m ethnic art images for the red, white and blue design of the new Concorde livery.

It was claimed that the need to change the design emerged with last week's European clearance for BA's strategic alliance with American Airlines (AA).

Its executives allegedly told

BA that the designs could damage business.

Ms Poole said: "We have had 145 aircraft painted so far and we intend to have the whole fleet of 330 aircraft painted by 2000."

The design has a world image on the tailfin with "British Airways" blazed across the aircraft body.

Ms Poole denied that AA had joined the critics. "They were not critical of the tailfins. We are both strong brands and we will continue to have strong designs." A spokeswoman for AA added that BA's tailfins had never been an issue. "Tailfins have not been involved in the negotiations," she said.

Banks looks at Bill to curb boxing

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Labour under fire: Accusations against Ed Balls meet angry denials but the revelations about Draper keep coming

Brown's top aide 'blamed for leaks'

SIR TERENCE BURNS, formerly the top civil servant at the Treasury, suspected Ed Balls, Gordon Brown's adviser, was responsible for budget leaks, according to a new book on the chancellor.

The allegations were fiercely denied yesterday by the chancellor's close advisers. Nevertheless they outline the tensions between Sir Terence, who has been replaced, and the increasingly powerful young adviser, Mr Balls, 31, who is in charge of policy, and Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's press adviser.

According to the book, Sir Terence became alarmed by a series of newspaper reports before last year's budget, including one quoting a member of the government, which appeared to confirm that the Chancellor would go ahead with plans to abolish tax credits in spite of heavy speculation to the contrary in the City.

Sir Terence checked the source of the report at a cocktail party before passing on his suspicions about the leak to the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robin Butler, according to Gordon

By COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Brown - the First Year in Power by Hugh Pym and Nick Kochan (Bloomsbury £16.99).

"The result was a memorandum from Butler for the attention of the Prime Minister. It suggested that Ed Balls and Charlie Whelan were the sources of the leaks. Blair himself, irritated by the scale of the apparent briefing taking place before the Budget passed on a copy of the memo to Brown."

"Brown's response was first to reassure Blair that what evidence there was against Balls and Whelan was inaccurate. With Burns he took a different tack, asking with irony whether such a serious offence should not result in the sacking of Balls. Sir Terence backtracked. He advised that such a course would perhaps be excessive."

"Privately, Brown's inner circle of advisers was furious that Burns had appeared to instigate a leak investigation," the book adds.

Mr Brown's advisers were infuriated yesterday at the serialisation in *The Sunday Times* that claimed there had



Gordon Brown's adviser Ed Balls with his wife Yvette Cooper, Labour MP and former 'Independent' writer

John Voos

been a "cover up", which is not alleged in the book. *"The Sunday Times"* had made up the story because they paid thousands of pounds for the book and there's nothing in it. It is cocktail gossip.

"Ed Balls has not leaked any budget secrets, Ed Balls does not leak budgets," said the source.

The Sunday Express also enraged the Chancellor's aides by a front-page story reporting Mr Balls had had lunch at the Looosoo Savoy grill for £100 paid for by Derek Draper, the lobbyist at the centre of the row over access to Government.

The source claimed *The Sunday Express* was able to reprint the receipt from the lunch be-

cause Mr Draper, until sacked last week, was an *Express* columnist, and may have submitted it to the paper in an expenses claim.

Mr Draper recently described Mr Balls as one of the 17 most powerful people in the Government. Mr Balls recently married former *Independent* economics journalist,

Yvette Cooper, who woo a Labour seat in last year's landslide victory.

As a journalist on the *Financial Times*, he impressed Gordon Brown with his conviction about modernising the economy.

His style, and the brusque nature of his fellow adviser, Mr Whelan, a former trade

unionist, ruffled feathers at the Treasury among the career civil servants.

After Sir Terence's intervention about the budget leak, "the already sour relations between the Treasury top brass and the Chancellor's political advisers were further embittered", leading to Sir Terence's departure.

Lord Sainsbury giving a further £1m to party

BY COLIN BROWN

A FURTHER donation of £1m to Labour Party funds by Lord Sainsbury, the retiring head of the family supermarket chain, is expected to be disclosed in accounts to be published in the run-up to the party conference in the autumn.

Lord Sainsbury, who was made a working life peer by Tony Blair, helped the party to reduce the party's overdraft to £3.5m from the general election campaign. It takes his total donations to the party to £3m.

The disclosure that Lord Sainsbury had added to the donations he had already made, making him one of the biggest personal donors to the party, was played down by officials. A party spokesman said: "Labour working peer gives money to us - big shock. If anybody has donated money, which I don't know they have done, then our procedure is give out the name if they donated over £5,000. It will be published in the accounts at the conference."

Lord Sainsbury's contribution to standards in public life is considered whether a cap should be placed on personal donations to parties. Lord Sainsbury who will step down as chairman of Sainsbury's in September to spend more time on politics for the Government in the Lords, was a big backer for the SDP.

With a personal fortune estimated at £1.3bn, he is one of the country's wealthiest men, and there is no suggestion that a further donation would break any existing rules. He demonstrated his support for Mr Blair's leadership before the election by giving £2m to the

Builders confirm Draper was on Downing St visit

DEREK DRAPER, the lobbyist at the centre of the cash-for-access storm, did accompany house builders on a visit to Downing Street, it was confirmed last night.

The House Builders' Federation said that - although Mr Draper was present at a meeting in the Number 10 dining room with Geoff Norris, a member of Tony Blair's policy unit - he did not arrange it.

Mr Draper told an *Observer* journalist, posing as an American businessman: "I took the chief executive of the House Builders' Federation in to see Geoff Norris the other day, and that meeting took place in the Downing Street dining room. It's not difficult for me to take people into these people."

Mark Cranfield-Adams, spokesman for the federation, said last night that Mr Draper had been present at the meeting on 1 May. However, the federation's chief executive, Robert Humber, had known Mr Norris since before the last election, and also had regular meetings with ministers, he added.

Mr Humber had contacted Mr Draper after the publication last year of his book, *Blair's 100 Days*, because he wanted to use his insight into the way New Labour worked. Although Mr Draper's firm, Prima Europe,

By FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

later sold out to GPC Market Access, the federation remained a personal client and continued to be invoiced by Prima Europe, he said.

"We have over employed Derek Draper to open doors for us. We didn't need Derek Draper to introduce us to people we already knew."

"We never had any problem talking to Government because people want to hear from us, and hear what we have to say." Mr Draper used to attend "brain-storming sessions" including one at which the slogan *Meeting Tomorrow's Aspirations* was thrashed out, Mr Cranfield-Adams said.

The federation had regular meetings with Nick Raynsford and Richard Caborn, the environment ministers, he added.

A Downing Street spokesman said no-one had attempted to deny that Derek Draper had a meeting in Number 10 with house builders.

"Draper hasn't gained any special access for the House Builders' Federation. It's a meeting that would have happened anyway," he said.

Tesco also was forced to rebut suggestions made by a lobbyist yesterday. It described

as "absolute nonsense" a claim by Ben Lucas, of Lawson Lucas Mendelsohn and a former Labour aide, that his firm had persuaded the supermarket to put £22 million into the Millennium Dome project.

Mr Lucas was also quoted as saying that his organisation had warned the supermarket of the risk that it might face taxes on supermarket car parks. Andrew Coker, Tesco's corporate and European affairs manager, said it had known Labour might impose such taxes even before it came to power, and had not learned of it from the lobbyists.

He said that Tesco had been approached by the Government and the supermarket chain had decided to sponsor the Learning Zone in the dome because the scheme fitted well with its existing Computers for Schools project.

"It's absolute nonsense. The Government approached us along with other people at the end of the summer last year," he said.

A spokesman for the New Millennium Experience Company said it had actually made the initial approach, and that it had been in active negotiations with two organisations for some time, before striking a deal with the Tesco supermarket group early this year.



Peter Mandelson's office 'sent faxes' Tony Buckingham

Faxes were already public, says lobbyist

THE FORMER LOBBYIST Derek Draper responded angrily to further newspaper allegations yesterday about his contacts with ministers, insisting that he had done nothing wrong. Commenting on reports that he received faxes from his former boss, the Minister without Portfolio, Peter Mandelson, on an "almost daily" basis, Mr Draper said he had received faxes from Mr Mandelson's office, but the material they contained was already all public.

"I was writing a newspaper column about politics. I would get newspaper cuttings, speeches - innocent sort of public material," he told ITV's breakfast station, GMTV. "I dispute the way *The Observer* has cobbled things together. I regret the things that I've already admitted, but I have done nothing wrong or dishonest. I have never been given inside information about anything by anyone in the Government."

Observer editor Will Hutton said no "inside information" was passed to Mr Draper, but insisted that the succession of faxes was significant. The way the story developed across the week was that people like Derek Draper were just boastful young men flustering around the edge of Government. What we have established is that even if these were low-level fax-

es, there was a lot of traffic between Peter Mandelson's office and (Derek Draper)."

The Tories joined the attack on New Labour's links with lobbyists. Shadow Defence Secretary John Maples told GMTV: "The question for people like me is not what he (Mr Draper) has done wrong but what the Government has done wrong."

"What we have been seeing is a systematic group of 'Tony's Cronies', of people who have bad relationships with the Labour Party, very inside relationships, continuing to maintain these contacts. This goes at the heart of the way the Labour Party operates."

Mr Draper resigned from his post as a director of lobbyists GPC Market Access this week after *The Observer* claimed that he offered clients secret Government information. He was also sacked from his column at *The Express* after reportedly saying that his pieces were vetted by Mr Mandelson.

Mr Draper said: "(I have) been through seven days of purgatory," adding that he was being persecuted over his links to Labour, after the *Sunday Express* revealed he had lunch in May with Ed Balls, a key adviser to Chancellor Gordon Brown.

Treasury sources confirmed the lunch took place, but denied it was secret or improper.



Lord Sainsbury

party. He is helping to set up the Government's University for Industry, as its unpaid chairman, and is expected to lead the "yes" campaign among businessmen for the referendum on UK entry to the single currency.

In a separate move, it was reported in the *Observer* that Lord Sainsbury was one of the anonymous benefactors behind the trust which funds the Blairite Progress magazine, founded by Derek Draper, the former lobbyist.

The newspaper said: "Draper claimed to an undercover *Observer* journalist that the fund had come from an unnamed 'Labour millionaire' and was arranged by a 'single phone call from Tony'."

"Draper said: 'I want to Tony about setting up Progress and he said fine, just keep it away from Peter Mandelson'."

Mr Draper was Mr Mandelson's personal assistant at the time. He denied it was an "ultra-moderniser Peter Mandelson front" magazine, because it had contributors such as Clare Short, Robin Cook and David Blunkett.

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Union chief says dispute will strengthen links with the party

THE STRONG and often controversial link between the big unions and the Labour Party is now "safe" in the wake of revelations about the shadowy activities of lobbyists, according to a senior union leader.

After years in which criticism focused on the influence of the unions on the party, attention has now been switched to a far more secretive relationship, said Ken Jackson, leader of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union and one of the Government's strongest supporters in the union movement.

Mr Jackson is the first union general secretary to comment publicly on the row which centres on some of the strongest proponents of a break between

By BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

the "two wings of the labour movement".

Peter Mandelson, minister without portfolio, Roger Liddle of the Downing Street Policy Unit and the lobbyist Derek Draper are all convinced that the constitutional relationship between unions and Labour should be broken to free the party of sectional interests.

But Mr Jackson told *The Independent* yesterday that the union link was "transparent" in contrast to some of the dealings of the leading lights of New Labour. "We are not gloating about these damaging revelations and we are not seeking to

apportion blame, but one lesson to be drawn is that the union link is transparent and above board. I have no doubt that it is also safe," he said.

He said unions were proud of the financial support they had given to the Labour Party - some £20m since 1979. The party had received backing and all the details were published. And meetings between Labour ministers and union leaders had never been hidden, he said. "If the relationship were to be broken, what would replace it?"

Some recent meetings between employee's leaders and ministers have been held in private, but unions argue that there has been similar contact involving employers.

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I was bullied and abused by fellow clergy, says first woman bishop

BY CLARE GARNER

THE FIRST full-ranking woman bishop in the Anglican church will tonight tell women priests in Britain about the "destructive abuse" she has experienced at the hands of fellow clergymen.

In a lecture at King's College London, the Rt Rev Penelope Jamieson, British-born Bishop of Dunedin, the southernmost diocese in New Zealand, will describe the bullying and humiliation she says she has been subjected to by her fellow Christians. At times, she says, this has been so cruel that she has even questioned her vocation.

Bishop Jamieson says she is too ashamed of her Church to detail the "tactics and sick projections" that have been used against her, but admits: "I cannot shy away from the tragic reality of judgement and human destruction, and the fact that it is with, within, for, and by the Christian community in which I serve makes it more poignant."

She is aware that her audience tonight - like many at Lambeth Conference next week, where women bishops will attend for the first time - may be expecting to hear a rallying cry.

However, she warns: "You will not find in me a very powerful advocate of women as bishops. For I cannot recommend the job and I cannot think that anyone would want it or seek it."

Bishop Jamieson, 55, a mother-of-three, was born at Chalfont St Peter's, in Buckinghamshire. A graduate of Edinburgh University, she is married to a New Zealander. She was elected Bishop of Dunedin in 1990. Her style of leadership in the Church has been based on mutual ministry - a partnership between the ordained and the laity.

She says: "I have been deeply hurt, punished even, for



Bishop Penelope Jamieson, who says she could not recommend her job after suffering abuse and humiliation

John Lawrence

such leadership and I am not always sure that I have the courage to risk it again. In a subliminal way it is socially still easy to place a woman in a victim role and treat her accordingly, and such treatment is often concealed by the external attached to positional power.

"To victimise a bishop seems like a contradiction, but it is not. I am too ashamed of my Church to give public voice to some of the tactics and sick projections that have been used. The continuingly subtle, even

underground power of patriarchy, whether exercised by men or women, to wound and destroy from a base of self-righteousness, is truly appalling.

"For to be vulnerable is to be wounded. It is to know what it is to be broken, to lose complete confidence in vocation and in the ability to even survive."

She stresses that such feelings are "not unknown" among her male colleagues, adding: "It is perhaps the gift of women in episcopacy that some of the often concealed downsides of

holding positional power are revealed."

She compares her mission to that of St Paul in the early church, identifying with "the sense of someone who is deeply afraid, whose commitment to living and preaching the gospel has brought danger and suffering, both physical and spiritual. For public humiliation and insult always brings all inner sense of failure and pain."

Women are, however, well-suited to the calling to "preach Christ crucified".

Christina Rees, a lay mem-

ber of the Church of England's General Synod and chair of Women, described as "sub-Christian" the attitudes encountered by Bishop Jamieson.

"One of the things we have to face up to and do something about is why we appoint leaders, support them, want them, call for them and then, when they are in that position, turn around and crucify them," she says.

Mrs Rees added: "Some will inevitably find it embarrassing and say: 'Why bring up the negative in public?' But by

giving this speech, she is saying: 'I'm not going to collude in silence'."

Bishop Jamieson will be one of 11 female bishops at the Lambeth Conference. Two are from Canada and eight from the United States. The remaining 789 from around the world are male.

"Bishop Jamieson wants to make people realise that those are not roles taken up by puppets, but inhabited by living beings with flesh and blood who hurt in the way that anyone would hurt when they come up

against opposition, snide comments and downright cruelty," said Mrs Rees.

Many British women priests will be going along to witness the historical female presence at Lambeth Conference. One such is the Rev Katharine Rumens, from St John's, Waterloo, in London, who was ordained in 1994, the first year that women were accepted for ordination.

"I'm going because I want to see the difference," she said, "to see that actually there is growth and movement in the Anglican Church."

Charity urges support for poor mothers

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

BABIES FROM poor families are born with a disadvantage which carries through to later life and urgent action must be taken to give them adequate support, says the Maternity Alliance.

Harriet Harman, the Secretary of State for Social Security, will today attend the launch of the charity's eight-point plan "Manifesto for Maternity" which calls for an annual report from every government department to detail the steps taken to address the problem.

A baby's birthweight is the single most important factor in determining its survival and how well it will thrive. A baby born with low birthweight (1,500g or less) is more likely to die in the first year of life or experience disability or illness later. For more than 30 years the proportion of low birthweight babies has remained the same at around 7 per cent.

Today a baby whose father is an unskilled manual worker is nearly twice as likely to be stillborn or die in the first year as a baby from a professional family. Presently, one in three babies is born into a household on means-tested benefits.

Research by the Maternity Alliance shows that the cost of a diet for a woman expecting her first child, based on Department of Health guidelines, ranges from a quarter to two thirds of Income Support payments, and teenage mothers - who receive lower benefits - are particularly badly affected and their children are most at risk.

The charity also called for an end to the freeze on the £100 maternity payment, payable to mothers on low income. This is such mothers' only other help from the Department of Social Security. A survey put minimum expenditure on essential items for a new baby at £565.

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Drugs crisis: Teenagers are targeted as dealers offer free deals in an attempt to encourage a regular habit

Epidemic of heroin sweeps Britain

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

A NEW heroin epidemic is sweeping into many of Britain's towns and cities as dealers target increasingly young teenagers for their trade, a major Home Office study has discovered.

Record numbers of dealers are selling heroin in low cost £10 packages in regions that had previously escaped the worst ravages of the drug.

The disturbing findings of the report, which will be published in the next few weeks, have prompted the Government to plan a major anti-heroin campaign aimed at young users.

The study, details of which have been obtained by *The Independent*, has identified "footprint" towns and cities where there are new heroin "outbreaks" and where use among young people is reaching epidemic levels.

Other findings in the report *New Heroin Outbreaks Amongst Young People in England and Wales* include:

■ Dealers are marketing heroin in or "brown" aggressively by offering cut price drugs and affordable £10 deals. Some is being given away free to encourage a habit.

■ The core group are 15 to 20-year-olds who are typically from poor, broken families with education problems.

■ Many young people are unaware of the dangers of heroin and start off smoking it in the belief that they will not become hooked.

■ A far wider range of people are taking the drug, including school pupils and people living on outlying housing estates.

Keith Hellawell, the UK Drugs Co-ordinator, known as the country's drug Tsar, told *The Independent*: "The report is saying that the problem is greater than we imagined."

"It confirms that heroin is becoming the drug of first choice for young people."

He added: "We have a very good chance of nipping any epidemic in the bud and controlling it."

"A growing number of users are not from disadvantaged backgrounds and is moving into hitherto stable areas," he said.

Researchers carried out a survey of 200 police and drug action teams in England and Wales last year.

They identified a new pattern for the distribution and use of heroin.

The users' average age has dropped from 17-25 to 14-25.

There are reports of a significant number of 14 to 16-year old-heroin users, but the average aged is about 18. In Bristol,

for example, there are an estimated 1,500 people aged under 19 taking heroin.

Many of the younger generation who missed the last epidemic in the 1980s are now unaware of the side effects of heroin and believe other substances, such as ecstasy, are more addictive.

They also believe smoking is a "healthier" option than injecting.

Bradford, Hull and Bristol were identified as "heroin footprint" cities where the drug had previously only been available in very small amounts but was now awash with the substance.

There have also been reports of heroin in Barnsley, south Leeds and Dewsbury in West Yorkshire.

Agencies in the South East, Sussex, Surrey and Wales, have also reported significant problems.

Heroin is believed to be far more widespread than the 1980's epidemic which was focused on inner city estates in large metropolitan cities.

The traditional "smack" cities such as Liverpool, London, Manchester and Glasgow still have a big heroin problem but the drug scene has remained stable.

The report also identifies a gap in the policing of cross police force borders which is allowing dealers to distribute their goods nationally.

Among the measures being considered by the Home Office are greater funding for treatment centres and an advertising and education campaign aimed at schools, teenagers and people in their early 20s.

The report's author, Professor Howard Parker, of Manchester University, one of the country's leading drug experts, said: "I'm concerned about the spread of heroin into the youth population and regard the report as a significant contribution to trying to map this problem."

"But I cannot discuss the details until the report has been published."

There are around 40,000 known heroin addicts in Britain but experts suspect the total could be five times higher.

In April Customs officers announced that they recovered 1.7 tons of heroin last year with a street value of more than £145m. That was an increase of 135 per cent on 1996.

About 80 per cent of the heroin seized is sent from Turkey.

It is produced in Afghanistan and Pakistan and is then trafficked through the Balkans from where it goes onwards to key markets in western Europe.



A heroin user chases the dragon amid warnings of a new drugs epidemic sweeping Britain. Dealers are offering low-cost deals to attract users who see smoking the drug as a healthier option to injecting David Hoffman

THE TEENAGER

'Pushers offer it free'

THE STORY of Timmy's young life reads like a tragic novel. He is 19 years old and in two years has slipped from a fun-loving teenager, who occasionally smoked cannabis, to a heroin addict who funds his habit by selling his body for sex.

He hates his condition and is trying to break out of the downward cycle with a detoxification programme in Bristol. He fidgets constantly and his eyes are glazed as he tells his story.

At the age of 17 his cousin, a year older, offered him a smoke of heroin. "I was sick at first, but the buzz was nice. He told me if I tried it again I wouldn't feel so sick. The more I took the more I wanted."

For the first year he smoked the heroin by "chasing it" - burning it on a piece of silver foil - but found he needed more and more to get the same buzz. He switched to injecting when he discovered a tiny amount fired directly into his blood stream had a much more powerful effect. But the dose gradually rose, until he was injecting a gram a day and spending about £300 a week.

To pay for his addiction he went shoplifting, but could not earn enough money so turned to prostitution. "I work on the streets at the moment and in the pubs," he said with self-loathing.

"All my mates do heroin. There's even a group of kids at school, aged from about 14 to 16, who are smoking it. Everyone I know moves from smoking it to injecting it."

"In Bristol you get pushers looking to get people onto heroin - they just go up to kids and offer them it for £10 or a free trial. They know once they're hooked they'll be back for more."

"My brother is a year older and has never touched heroin, just a bit of weed [cannabis]. I look at him and he has got a job and qualifications; he's got a flat, a misses and a baby... That could have been me, I could have had all that."

THE LONG-TERM USER

'It's everywhere now'

SOPHIE HAS been taking heroin for 17 years. She used to inject it but her veins became so broken she turned to smoking.

Since she started on heroin the price has dropped from about £100 a gram to about £45 in Bristol where she lives.

To pay for her regular fixes she would go on shop-lifting sprees, which could net her more than a thousand pounds a week. The stolen goods were sold to "punters" who pay one-third of the face value.

"Heroin is always just a phone call away. I used to have to travel around the country looking for it, but it's everywhere now, I just call a dealer and he will drop it off in about 15 minutes," she said.

Sophie, 38, says the dealers sometimes give it to users to sell on their behalf, often in £10 "wraps", but they can be as little as £5 for about one-third of a gram.

"Because people are frightened of getting hepatitis or Aids, a lot of them are smoking it now," she explained. They smoke it in pipes, on foil, and very occasionally mixed with tobacco and cannabis.

One of her four children became addicted to heroin at the age of 17 but managed to kick the habit after three years.

Sophie has finally managed to quit heroin and has been clean for 10 months, but has discovered she has contracted chronic hepatitis C from injecting.

THE FIRST-WAVE ADDICT

'Kids aren't afraid'

TOM, NOW 26, remembers the heroin epidemic of the Eighties. "It used to be very hush-hush. No one would mention it and it was often hard to get hold of. The difference is that the kids these days are not frightened of it. Really young kids - 13- and 14-year-olds are taking it."

"Some of the young people have jobs - I know people who work as court clerks who are taking heroin - others just go out

knicking. It's so easy to get hold of, there's a door-to-door service available at the end of a phone."

Five months ago, Tom switched from heroin to the chemical substitute, methadone, in an attempt to wean himself off the drug.

The three drug users, whose names have been changed, are being helped by the Bristol Drugs Project.

Autistic care 'a travesty'

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

NEARLY SIX times as many beds are needed to meet the needs of autistic adults in Britain, all of whom will need residential care at some point in their lives.

A report by the Disabilities Trust says that at present only one in 422 adults with autism receives residential care in the UK today - whereas there should be beds for one in 75.

Autism affects more than half a million people - more than cerebral palsy and schizophrenia combined, says the charity. It is caused by conditions affecting the brain's development before, during or after birth, including maternal rubella and lack of oxygen, and complications in childhood diseases such as measles.

"In the majority of cases children with autism get special help at school," said Norman Thody, chief executive of the Disabilities Trust. "But once they leave, the majority will still remain dependent on others and more often than not this 'dependability' is provided by a close family friend."

At present of 924 residential beds available in the UK, only 78 are provided by the NHS.

"Research has shown that one in three families with autistic children were turned away by the NHS," said Mr Thody. "It is a travesty that there is only one residential bed available for every 422 adults with autism in this country today."

Child-sex tourists escape UK law

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

NOT A single prosecution has been achieved under legislation introduced by the Government to target paedophiles who attack children overseas.

When the new law was introduced last September, enabling British courts to try paedophiles who offended on so-called sex tourism trips, Home Office minister Alan Michael said: "These evil people should not escape punishment. There will be no hiding place."

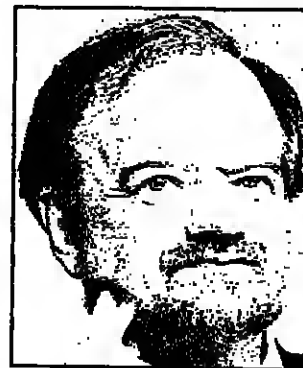
But yesterday detectives described the law as "Mickey Mouse legislation" and said there was no prospect of any convictions.

Campaigners against paedophiles called for British police officers with experience in child-sex investigations to be deployed at embassies in south-east Asian countries.

One senior London police officer said: "The new law was just Mickey Mouse legislation. You pretend that you do something, just to please the masses, but you don't actually do anything."

He said it was unrealistic to expect foreign victims of child sex abuse to give evidence in Britain. "You would have to find some abused child from a beach in the Philippines, keep in contact with them for six months until the case came to trial, and then bring them to the UK," he said. "These are homeless people, you are never going to keep tabs on them."

The legislation, part of the



Robin Cook: Paedophiles 'will be prosecuted'

Sex Offenders Act 1997, followed a visit to the Philippines capital Manila by Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, who visited drop-in centres for children who had been abandoned by their families and abused by tourists from Britain, Australia, Japan and elsewhere.

After signing a co-operation agreement for the sharing of intelligence by British and Philippines police, Mr Cook warned paedophiles: "Don't come. If you do you'll be identified and prosecuted."

But despite the continued exploitation of children by travelling Britons, no suspected offenders have yet been brought back to Britain to be tried.

Christine Beddoe, the co-ordinator of the End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking Campaign, said she was disappointed by the lack of prosecutions.

"The sentiment of cracking

down on these offences is all very well but the Government needs to give more resources to specialist training and to law enforcement officials investigating such specialised crime."

She called for police sex offender liaison officers - similar to the drugs liaison officers already deployed - to be stationed in embassies in countries used by paedophiles.

Ms Beddoe also said that the National Paedophile Register should be amended so that paedophiles who are convicted abroad are registered. She said registered sex offenders who were travelling abroad should be required to give notification of where they were staying.

Kate Lowes, of Stop Paedophiles Exploiting and Abusing Kids (Speak), said the only way to stop the child sex tourists was to mark the passports of all convicted paedophiles.

"You have got to be prepared in the long-term to limit the access of paedophiles to the countries where they are actively abusing children."

Although no tourist paedophiles have been brought back to Britain to face justice, four Britons have been prosecuted by local courts which, campaigners hope, are beginning to take the problem of sex tourism more seriously.

In a further initiative, officers from the Metropolitan and Durham police forces have travelled to the Philippines to help train local police in detecting child-sex offences.

Giles's niece in custody

THE NIECE of BBC weatherman Bill Giles was in custody last night after she walked out of a psychiatric hospital and failed to turn up for a court appearance, police said.

Joanna Toner, 38, who suffers from a mental illness, was to be sentenced on Friday for harassing Mr Giles and his wife Maureen. But she failed to appear before magistrates in Tiverton, Devon, after going missing on Wednesday and a warrant was issued for her arrest.

Ms Toner was being held at Charing Cross police station in London last night following an incident at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, when paint was smeared on the memorial.

Ms Toner, from Tiverton, who has two children, will be taken back to Devon today and will appear before magistrates today or tomorrow to be sentenced for harassment, carrying out a bomb hoax, and making persistent phone calls.

On Friday, magistrates were told Toner had walked out of hospital and gone to London.

Prosecutor Nigel Lawson asked for a warrant to be issued so that Toner could be brought before a court as soon as possible and for her own protection.

Toner, Mr Giles' niece by his first marriage, had made false claims over the past six years that she is his love child, and had written to his colleagues and management at the BBC.

Mr Giles, 58, has described the campaign of harassment as a "nightmare".



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Debt-hit theatres battle to survive

THE PUBLIC is paying more money to see fewer actors as Britain's regional theatres struggle to cope with a deepening financial crisis. While the theatres stage plays with smaller casts, their average ticket price has increased by 90 per cent in the last 10 years, a new survey shows.

The problem also extends to some national companies. The Royal Shakespeare Company responded: "We have reduced the overall numbers of actors and musicians in our productions to the point where Cymbeline led a British army of three into battle against the Romans."

Peter Doran, artistic director of the Torch Theatre, Milford Haven, replied: "The reality of the situation is that when doing a Christmas show with just five actors, when the children shout out 'look behind you', invariably there is nobody there."

A survey carried out by the National Campaign for the Arts, an independent pressure

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

group, found that there has been a cumulative total loss of £12m in real terms in core funding for theatre in England over the past decade. Some 33 English repertory theatres are now in deficit, with those deficits totalling over £10.3m.

The Greenwich Theatre in London is already closing, as are the Redgrave and Thorndike theatres, both in Surrey.

Among the effects of funding cuts are: a cut in in-house productions (Scarborough is down 50 per cent over two years); a cut in cast sizes (the average cast size at Derby Playhouse has fallen 42 per cent over the last two decades); and a fall in the employment of actors (a 50 per cent cut in "actor weeks" at the Crucible, Sheffield, over the last five years).

One case study in the report is the Derby Playhouse. When it opened 20 years ago it had a main house, a studio with nine productions a year and a full-



The playwright Alan Ayckbourn outside Scarborough Theatre, one of many which have been forced to scale down operations John Angerson

time education company doing work in the community. Now there are no in-house productions in the studio, and no in-theatre education company.

Its average cast size in the main house in 1978 was around 13, enabling the theatre to stage *Hamlet* and *My Fair Lady*. Now the average cast is seven.

Even a critically acclaimed

theatre such as the West Yorkshire Playhouse has been forced to cut the number of in-house productions by 30 per cent over eight years.

Morale among theatre managements is declining rapidly. Chris Dunham, of the Palace theatre, at Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, said: "The theatre is being forced to become more

and more a receiving house and to forget that we are meant to be a theatre serving its community with its own company and productions."

British regional theatre comprises a repertory system of 69 producing theatres, supplemented by an equal number of "receiving house" theatres, which stage productions

hought in from elsewhere. There is also a small-scale sector of companies dedicated to specialist areas like new writing, children's theatre and educational drama.

The report says that as the cost of going to the theatre has increased beyond inflation "it works against the Government's aim of making the arts

available to all". It also makes a caustic reference to the Government's championing of "the cool Britannia industries of fashion, film and design" - pointing out that: "British theatre is the flagship for Britain in the world. However, it is a flagship undervalued by politicians at home and badly neglected."

Disney lobbies for Pooh 'windfall'

CHILDREN'S FAVOURITE Winnie the Pooh is set to generate millions of pounds for the beneficiaries of his creator's estate, administrators confirmed yesterday.

AA Milne's old school, Westminster, and the Garrick Club, where he was a member, are two of the institutions that could receive windfalls of up to £50m if Disney agrees a new copyright deal on the bear.

Other beneficiaries would include his own family and that of illustrator EH Shepard.

But the deal, rumoured to be worth around £200m, depends on changes to the American copyright law to extend rights on the author's work.

Michael Brown, chairman of Pooh Properties Trust, which manages AA Milne's estate, said Disney has owned the television, licensing and film rights since 1961.

A new deal would simply extend those rights, he added.

"We haven't got an agreement on things and it is very uncertain whether the law will go through."

"We are in discussions with Disney and we have got many months to go."

"If the bill does not go through, then nothing will happen at all."

Disney has been lobbying Congress to pass a bill which would extend rights on the work of authors for 70 years after their death, rather than 50 years as at present.

Britain to hand historic marbles back to Turkey

WHERE THE Greeks have failed, the Turks have succeeded. Britain is to hand back ancient sculptures to Turkey after a successful claim for ownership.

The Castor Marbles, taken from Turkey more than 100 years ago, will be handed back at a special ceremony at the

BY DAVID LISTER

Turkish embassy on Wednesday, with British and Turkish officials in attendance as well as archaeologists and academics.

The word "marbles" and the claim for ownership suggests parallels with the Elgin Marbles at the British Museum, which

the British government refuses to return to Greece. The Turkish embassy is highlighting the success of its government with a public ceremony in two days' time.

The story goes back to July 1894, when the SS *Castor*, a Dutch vessel, set off from the Turkish port of Izmir for

Amsterdam. On board were two crates of Roman marble sculptures which had been loaded at Izmir by Alfred van Lennep, the Dutch vice-consul in the town, an amateur archaeologist and illicit trader in antiquities. Van Lennep was proposing to sell them to a museum in Holland.

But the boat collided with a German vessel and sank in dense fog in the English Channel. Passengers and crew were saved, but the cargo was lost, remaining on the sea-bed for more than 100 years.

Three years ago, seven of the 14 marble antiquities were recovered by British divers.

They include a figure of Venus and a bust of Emperor Marcus Aurelius as a young man before his accession.

After their recovery, the sculptures were put on display at Folkestone Museum in Kent until their ownership could be established.

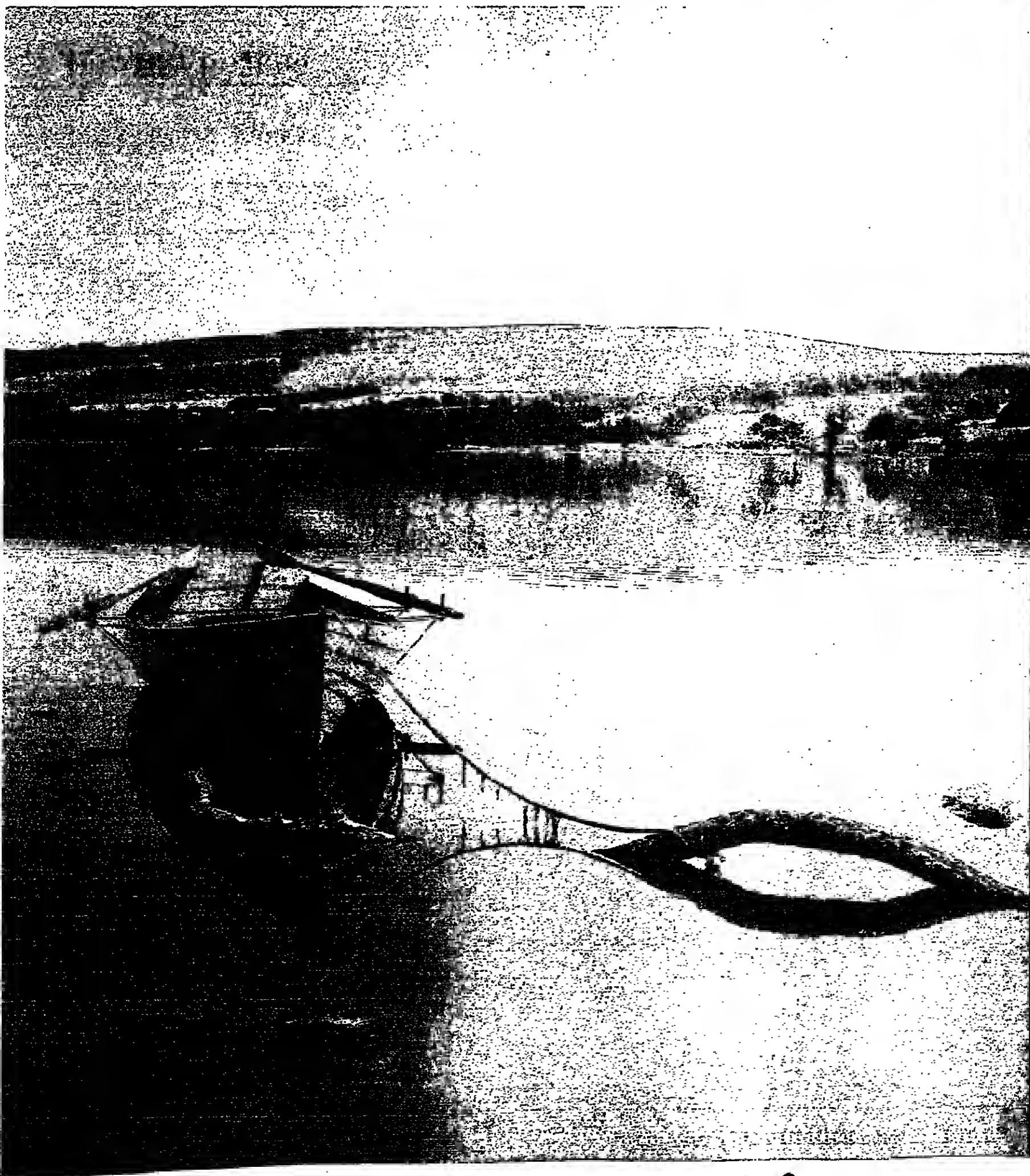
Ownership was asserted by

the Turkish government, whose claim has now been upheld by the Receiver of Wrecks at the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

Ozdem Sanberk, Turkish ambassador to Britain, said: "This marks the end of one of the most remarkable stories in underwater archaeology in re-

cent years. Discussions of the ownership claim were handled in a friendly and highly co-operative spirit between officials and academics of the two countries.

"The rescue of the *Castor* Marbles presents an exemplary case of how issues of this sort can be speedily resolved."



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Japan tells Hashimoto he must go

By RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
in Tokyo

RYUTARO HASHIMOTO, the Japanese prime minister, is expected to resign today after a humiliating election result which has thrown the country's politics into turmoil and further complicated the task of sorting out its economic crisis.

In a result which exceeded even the grimmest predictions, Mr Hashimoto's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was set to win only 44 of the 128 up for election in the upper house of the Japanese Diet. The newly-formed Democratic Party of Japan and the Communist Party both made impressive gains in an unexpected expression of popular anger at the LDP's hesitant and incompetent handling of the economy.

The upper house is the less powerful of the Diet's two chambers, and the election does not effect the LDP's secure majority in the lower house, which originates legislation and chooses the prime minister. But it represents a crippling blow for the prime minister whose authority within his own party and national popularity have steadily dwindled over the last year. "The party's supporters did their



Hashimoto: poll debacle

best," said a grave-looking Mr Hashimoto early this morning. "I feel that this is my responsibility due to my lack of capability. The matter of responsibility is something for me personally to decide."

At a meeting of LDP executives today, Mr Hashimoto will almost certainly announce his resignation as party president, and therefore as prime minister. Fellow party leaders and allies, including secretary-general Koichi Kato, will also quit, clearing the field for a power struggle.

Next weekend, the Japanese prime minister was due to leave for Paris and then Washington for summit meetings

with Jacques Chirac and Bill Clinton - whether those meetings will take place as scheduled and who will represent Japan is not yet clear. The man most likely to succeed Mr Hashimoto is Keizo Obuchi, the present foreign minister, a mild and amiable character who - unlike Mr Hashimoto - enjoys the support of one of the LDP's faction leaders, the former prime minister, Noboru Takeshita.

But Mr Obuchi's uncontroversial reputation was undermined last week during a series of farcical bluffs over the party's tax cuts. First, senior LDP figures, including Mr Hashimoto and Mr Obuchi, said that taxes would be reduced, and then changed their minds. Finally on Wednesday Mr Hashimoto announced that the cuts were on - a shamelessly cynical piece of electioneering which undoubtedly contributed to yesterday's wretched performance.

Other potential prime ministers include a former LDP president, Yohei Kono, or the health and welfare minister, Junichiro Koizumi, who was defeated by Mr Hashimoto in party elections in 1996. But there is no obvious and able successor - one of the reasons why Mr Hashimoto was able to



Naoto Kan, right, head of the opposition Democratic Party, and former prime minister Tadamasa Yamaguchi on polling night. Kimimasa Mayama

survive for two-and-a-half years, making him one of post-war Japan's longest-serving leaders.

Whoever takes over, the realignments within the party and the need to appoint a new cabinet will do nothing to pacify the currency and stock markets which have been in turmoil since the government officially acknowledged that the economy was in recession. The week before last, after much

hesitation and delay, Mr Hashimoto announced a programme to restore confidence in Japanese banks which are laden with \$560bn dollars of debts and it remains to be seen whether the implementation of the plan, and the promised tax cuts, will be effected by the changes in the government.

Mr Hashimoto had been under intense international pressure to clean up the banking crisis in order to reassure investors and stimulate Japanese domestic spending, which would in turn stimulate the stricken economies of south-east Asia. In Singapore yesterday, the finance minister, Richard Hu, said that his own country could suffer if Hashimoto lost. "The biggest problem is, in fact, not even here," he said. "What happens in Japan would have a large impact on the whole region, including us."

The big winner in the election was Naoto Kan whose recently formed Democratic Party was set to win 29 seats, compared to the 18 it was defending. "Many Japanese people showed a red card to the Hashimoto cabinet and the LDP," he said last night.

A fortnight ago, public interest appeared to be very low, with opinion polls suggesting that only four out of ten people would bother to cast a vote. But turnout was just under 60 per cent, after large numbers of previously undecided voters chose the opposition parties.

UN sends Saddam's warheads to Europe for VX tests

UNITED NATIONS scientists were due to arrive in Baghdad yesterday to transport parts of missile warheads alleged to contain traces of VX, the lethal nerve gas, to laboratories in France and Switzerland. The tests for the gas are critical to the lifting of economic sanctions on Iraq, which the UN Security Council says it will maintain until Iraq has eliminated all its weapons of mass destruction.

By PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

The US said last month that tests on the remains of the warhead on an Iraqi missile, destroyed by Iraq in 1991, showed that it once contained VX and a stabiliser for the poison gas. Iraq says it never used VX as a weapon. It says the tests at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland were biased and has

asked for them to be repeated in laboratories in more neutral countries, such as France and Switzerland.

The outcome of the tests are important for the future of sanctions, first imposed in 1990 after the invasion of Kuwait, which are to be discussed by the UN Security Council in October. Iraq says it is cooperating with the UN Special Committee (UNSCOM) in

charge of eliminating its chemical, biological and chemical weapons - including the means to deliver them.

In a surprise revelation Yevgeny Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, said in London last month that Iraq clearly had some VX and should admit it.

Iraq is relying on support from Russia, France and China to oppose the continuation of

sanctions by the Security Council.

General Wafiq al-Sammara, the former head of Iraq's military intelligence, says that Iraq not only has VX, but used it against Iran at Fao, one of the fiercest battles of the Iran-Iraq war, in 1988. Iraq used poison gas extensively during the final stages of the war and Iran is still treating some 50,000 of its soldiers suffering from mustard

gas injuries. Iran never accused Iraq of using VX during the war, but the symptoms are the same as those for sarin and tabun, nerve gases discovered by German scientists in the 1930s, but never used in the Second World War. Iraq admits to using sarin and tabun against Iran. All three gases are so lethal because they affect nerves controlling the muscles and lead to extreme muscular spasms which asphyxiate the victim.

VX differs from sarin and tabun because it is less volatile and can remain in the ground weeks after used in battle. It is also easier to manufacture. Iraq admits to making a small amount of VX in a laboratory, but says it failed to 'weaponise' it or find a stabiliser enabling it to store the gas. In the case of the battle of Fao it is possible that the gas was used immediately after manufacture and therefore would not need to be stabilised.

If European tests on pieces of missiles destroyed in 1991 show no traces of VX, US and British credibility over sanctions will be damaged. If VX is found then the UN Security Council is likely to want evidence that it has been eliminated before ending their embargo.



South Korean soldiers on guard after the body of a suspected spy was discovered. AP

Seoul on alert after 'spy' is washed ashore

ALL MILITARY and police forces on South Korea's rugged east coast went on increased alert yesterday after the body of a suspected North Korean spy was found washed ashore.

"The alert is in response to a probability that some North Korean armed agents could have come ashore undetected," said Colonel Hwang Dong-kyu, a spokesman for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

President Kim Dae-jung ordered a thorough search for possible infiltrators from North Korea, with which South Korea technically remains in a state of war. A dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed in the area to help in the search.

The Defence minister, Chun Yong-taek, cutting short his

By KYONG-HWA SEOK
in Seoul

trip to the United States, was to fly back to Seoul today. Mr Chun, who met the US defence secretary, William Cohen, in Washington last week, had planned to return home on Wednesday after visiting Hawaii.

The alert was issued after the body, clad in a wetsuit, was found on a beach just over a mile from a major South Korean naval base on the east coast. "From the various equipment and personal belongings found, it appears certain that the body is that of an armed North Korean agent," the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

The statement said the body was found washed ashore near Donghae, 117 miles east of Seoul, and the military immediately increased land and sea patrols in the area.

The military later put all units in the area on increased alert after a self-propelled, semi-submersible craft, capable of helping infiltrate up to five agents, was found near where the body was found. The craft, made of aluminium, was similar to ones used by North Korean agents to infiltrate South Korea in the past, military officials said.

"The size of the cone-shaped craft indicates that some armed agents might have come ashore undetected," Mr Hwang said.

Iraqi rebels win US victory

By ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

SIX IRAQIS threatened with deportation from America have won a legal victory.

The Iraqis were airlifted out of northern Iraq in 1998 after a CIA operation against Saddam Hussein went disastrously wrong. The US authorities charged them and ordered them to be deported in March, but claimed that the evidence in the case was so secret that neither they nor their lawyers could have access to it. The US allegedly suspects the six of being double agents for President Saddam Hussein.

But the US Justice Department admitted last week that most of the evidence was not secret at all, and can be released. The government said that there had been failures of communication between the FBI and the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The case has come to be seen as a symbol of America's failed policy towards Iraq. The opposition was supported in an attempt to build momentum for a coup against Saddam, but the rebel forces proved to be infiltrated by Baghdad. Iraq's military then struck, ending the rebellion.

Earlier this year former CIA chief James Woolsey took on their case. But even he was not given access to the evidence. His intervention did, however, help to publicise their case, and brought it to the attention of the Washington bureaucrats.

The Iraqis have been imprisoned outside Los Angeles for more than a year without being able to hear the charges against them. The legal process to decide their fate is likely to take several more months. They say that if they are returned to Iraq, they face certain death. And they claim that it is ridiculous to describe them as asylum seekers when it was the American military which brought them to the US.

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هكلى ٥٥٠٠٠

Mother and son's crime spree at an end

THERE IS a body in California, a missing wealthy widow in New York, a disappeared banker in the Bahamas, a bounced cheque in Utah and a burned-out house in Hawaii. Put together, they make up a deepening mystery that is drawing police from across America to take a much closer look at Sante and Kenneth Kimes.

Ms Kimes, 63, and her 23-year-old son were picked up by the police after paying for a \$15,000 (£9,000) car in Utah with a cheque drawn on a frozen account. Police used it as

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

pretext for bringing them in to discuss David Kazdin, a businessman whose body was found in a rubbish bin in Venice, California.

The Kimes had made a fraudulent \$280,000 loan on a house in Las Vegas, and had claimed \$100,000 on insurance when it burnt down. The house had been in the name of Robert McCarren, a homeless man, and later Mr Kazdin - though apparently without his knowledge. Mr McCarren was im-

prisoned by the Kimes while the company investigated the insurance claim. His escape first alerted the police to the Kimes' nefarious activities.

Investigators found it was not their first insurance claim, either: the Kimes had claimed when a house in Hawaii burnt down in 1990, but the insurance company said the fire was suspicious and refused to pay.

When they brought the pair in, Ms Kimes was found to be carrying identity papers belonging to Irene Zambelli Silverman. Ms Silverman, a wealthy widow who let out

rooms in her smart New York mansion, disappeared a week ago. It emerged that she had had an argument with one of her tenants - Mr Kimes.

Ms Silverman had spun a social web around the house, with the singer Chaka Khan and conductor Peter Dinklage amongst her glamorous houseguests. She and her husband had kept a flat in Paris, and she recreated an 18th-century Parisian salon on the Upper East Side. But in Mr Kimes, she apparently chose the wrong tenant.

Before her death, the Kimes

had taken a lawyer to her office and asked her to sign over the power of attorney to them. She refused. She was seen arguing with Mr Kimes in her house, tried to leave, but was taken into his flat. She was never seen again.

To add another dimension (and jurisdiction) to what is already a complex tale, the authorities in the Bahamas said they wanted to talk to the Kimes about the mysterious disappearance of Syed Bilal Ahmed, a banker in 1996. He had been sent to the islands to audit the Cayman Island Gulf

Union Bank, where the Kimes held an account.

This may well be only the beginning of a lengthy investigation. In Florida, the Kimes are wanted after buying a car with fraudulent cheques. When arrested, they had in their car documents about several wealthy businessmen, each of whom is being investigated. Alongside the documents were a personal computer, \$30,000 in cash, wigs in different colours and a 9mm Glock pistol.

It remains to be seen what uses they found for these things, and where.



Sante Kimes and her son Kenneth: Questioned by police over deaths and insurance scams

New light on Versace murder

BY PHIL DAVISON
in Miami

"VERSACE DIDN'T have time to even see or to turn around because it was a matter of seconds. He placed his gun and he fired two shots, one after the other."

These were the words of a key eyewitness, released by police for the first time, who was three yards away from the Italian fashion designer when he was shot by Andrew Cunanan on the steps of his Miami Beach mansion a year ago this week.

According to her statement, published by the Miami Herald yesterday, part-time Miami Beach resident Mersha Colakovic was the closest person to the shooting. Police yesterday described her as their best witness.

Ms Colakovic admitted she had used a false name for her initial statement to police, fearing that her life could be in danger from Versace's killer. She later gave her real name.

Ms Colakovic said she was standing outside Versace's home at 8.45am on 15 July 1997 when she saw the designer walking towards her in his customary black and grey T-shirt, shorts and sandals. "He saw that I recognised him. He smiled at me. I smiled," she said, describing him as relaxed and

happy. "At that moment, I saw a guy very close to the villa - he was young-looking and white, dressed in a tank top, shorts and black baseball cap. He looked like a tourist."

"I thought it was one of Versace's admirers, or someone who knew him because he sped up to reach Versace. I turned around to look at Versace one last time."

"The guy had already reached him on the steps. He pointed his gun with his arm very stretched out as Versace was placing or trying to place his key in the lock."

Ms Colakovic said the gunman put the gun next to Versace's left ear, close enough to touch him. "Versace didn't have time even to see or turn around because it was a matter of seconds. He placed his gun and he fired two shots, one after the other. Tatt! Tatt!"

"There was no smoke, there was no nothing. It was a precise shot."

She described the killer as having a distinctive "Donald Duck" walk which she demonstrated for police. "He continued down the street as if nothing had happened," she said.

Cunanan, who had already killed four others, was later found dead, having apparently shot himself, on a Miami Beach houseboat nine days later.



A runner leading the bulls through the streets of Pamplona yesterday during the sixth day of the San Fermin festival in northern Spain. Paul Hagger, 21, a Briton, was seriously hurt when he was gored after being charged inside the city's hulling. Luis Maria Ibaez/AP

Hispanics put their stamp on US history

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Española, New Mexico

THE BACKDROP was all the magnificence of the American south-west, with its panorama of blue-grey mountains, sunlit desert and ahead, the tree-studded valley of the Rio Grande.

But the scale of the festivities was akin to a village fete: stalls selling local history and crafts, a town plaza decked out in red, white and blue balloons, and a couple of hundred people waiting, on damp grass in blistering sunshine, for proceedings to begin.

The only peculiarities were the bulky adobe-style mission church, recently restored, fronting on to the square, and the prominence of the US Postal Service, whose double-sized stall was already under siege.

After a flourish from the brass band, a solemn rendition of the US national anthem, the pledge of allegiance (first in Spanish, then in English), an Indian impromptu, and an eagle dance performed by three feathered Indians, all was explained. A clutch of dignitaries - the local mayor and two New Mexico congressmen - together



Senator Peter Domenici at the unveiling of a stamp celebrating the first Spanish settlement in today's United States. AP/Julie Graber

er tore down a white sheet to reveal a giant mock-up of the latest US postage stamp, which commemorates the 400th anniversary of the first Spanish settlement in today's United States of America.

The issuing of the stamp in Española, a dust-swept town 30

miles north of the state capital, Santa Fe, was the US federal government's contribution to a series of events marking the anniversary - referred to by everyone here as the cuarto centenario.

The federal authorities had agreed to issue the stamp on 11

July, one day earlier than in the rest of the United States - and this was the inaugural event for a three-day fiesta of singing, dancing, eating, drinking and trading in the best frontier tradition.

Española, at the junction of the river Chama and the Rio

Grande, is the modern-day town closest to the encampment of San Gabriel del Yunque, where Don Juan Onate, described as the "last of the Conquistadors", brought his 80 settlers from the then Spanish colony of Mexico.

They had set out in January, 1598, from Santa Barbara near Durango, crossed the Rio Grande into what is now the United States, in April, and arrived at San Gabriel on 11 July.

Each of these milestones has been marked this year, culminating in the Española fiesta close to the settlement that, four centuries ago, was the end of the road.

The cuarto centenario, however, has not been the easiest of events for the United States to commemorate, as the resort to the postage stamp with its highly coloured picture of the Española mission may suggest, its contribution was at best double-edged.

On the one hand, as one of New Mexico's US Senators, Pete Domenici, put it: "400 years of Hispanic heritage will be communicated throughout the United States on these 48 million stamps."

On the other, a postage stamp is an assertion of feder-

al authority in a US state. New Mexico, which has a population almost 40 per cent Hispanic, is the only state of the Union which feels the need to specify on its car licence plates that it is New Mexico, United States.

Obtaining any federal recognition of the anniversary at all, though, is accounted something of an achievement in Española, given that New Mexico was joined to the United States more than two centuries after it was settled by the Spanish and the anniversary, arguably, has nothing to do with the United States.

In April, after the last major anniversary was marked - the crossing of the Rio Grande - at a town felicitously named Madrid - there were grumblings locally that the occasion had been virtually ignored by the mainstream (East coast, English-language) US media.

"Everyone says 'Mayflower this and Mayflower that'," said Gabrielle Palmer, a Santa Fe art historian. "But the English were the last to conquer, so they got to have the history written in their language."

As Stephen Fosberg, a New Mexico historian quipped: "If the Pilgrim Fathers had arrived in New Mexico, rather than

Jamestown, they could have gone shopping."

That this weekend's anniversary is partly a tribute to the efforts of local people like Ms Palmer and Mr Fosberg and the increase in historical awareness in the American south west. But it is also evidence of the growing political importance of Hispanic America nationally - and its votes.

Americans classifying themselves as Hispanic comprise 11 per cent of the US population. By the year 2010, they will have overtaken blacks as the second most numerous racial group, and by the year 2050, if not before, they will make up 25 per cent of the population and help make white Americans a minority in what they still see as "their" country.

The point was drummed home by Senator Jeff Bingaman near the close of a weekend symposium, also near Española, on the significance of the Camino Real - the 1,800 mile trade and supply route that linked Mexico and its new settlements to the north.

He told the 100 or so participants, from the US and Mexico, that by time the US celebrates the 400th anniversary of the landing of Pilgrim

Fathers: "We need to ensure that people understand that people came here in 1598 to establish the European heritage here."

But there is a fourth group to be taken into account also, the American Indians of the Rio Grande valley, who lost lives and land to the Spanish invaders, as they did to the English in the east.

For the Indians, Onate is the embodiment of the cruelty and land-grabbing that threatened their existence. They still relate how Onate and his men avenged themselves on the Indians of Acoma in 1599, cutting off the right foot of their bravest warriors.

In January, a new statue, erected at a cultural centre just north of Española, was found with Onate's right foot severed.

Requests for an Onate statue in New Mexico's largest city, Albuquerque, have been rejected after Indian protests.

And while Spain recently sent diplomatic delegations to the reservations in a first attempt to improve the Hispanic image, the Indians were conspicuously absent from this weekend's festivities. Only the eagle dancers turned up.

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Some of the thousands who attended the funeral of Moshood Abiola at the weekend gather round the grave of Nigeria's most prominent political prisoner, whose death in custody sparked riots

Abiola letter tells of prison despair

BY D D OBIKA
in Lagos

LIKE A chilling voice from the grave, Moshood Abiola made his final, eloquent appeal to his compatriots yesterday, calling for an end to military rule and freedom for his people.

Almost prophetically, he described in a published letter his isolation and despair of life after four years in prison. "I was like a man put in an open grave."

The country's most prominent political prisoner, Abiola died on Tuesday while still in custody. His death set off days of rioting in Lagos and the southern Nigerian cities of Ibadan and Abeokuta. At least 55 people died in the violence; more than 400 were arrested.

In the letter to Nigerian human rights leader Gani Fawehinmi he said it was only a matter of time before the military was forced from power. "Time searches out and destroys all things," Abiola wrote in the letter published yesterday in the Lagos-based *Tribune* newspaper.

Vowing to return to politics



Abiola: 'I was like a man put in an open grave'

to reclaim his elected mandate as president, he said "there is no statute of limitations on valid elections".

Abiola was the presumed winner of 1993 presidential elections that were annulled. He was jailed the following year by then dictator General Sani Abacha and accused of treason.

According to the preliminary findings of an independent post-mortem examination, Abiola died of an apparent heart attack. But while the results of the autopsy

may have exonerated Nigeria's ruling military junta on charges that it killed Abiola, pro-democracy groups are still saying the army is to blame for the tragedy.

"I'm strangely relieved that the results of the autopsy didn't show any foul play by the military junta," said Oluwa Agbakoba, the national coordinator of the United Action for Democracy.

He adds, however: "It was medical neglect that led to Chief Abiola's death while in four years of detention under the junta."

The *Sunday Concord*, one of Abiola's newspapers, reported yesterday that he had kept a diary detailing abusive treatment by guards, health problems and boredom during four years of solitary confinement.

The *Concord* said the diary had been written on slips of paper and had been smuggled to his family during his detention for declaring himself president.

The newspaper said Abiola complained of subhuman treatment from his captors "most often shouting on me to shut up when I make complaints or seek to request for

medical attention." The most detailed part of the diary, which the family has not yet decided whether to publish in full, deals with Abiola's health problems.

He complained of repeated dehydration and diarrhoea and said he was allowed to see a doctor only once in more than a year, and was usually ignored by authorities when he asked for medical care.

The opposition National Democratic Coalition called yesterday for the military government to step aside to make way for a government including representatives from all regions.

Its chairman, Abraham Adesanya, said in a newspaper interview that after the death of Abiola such a system remained the only way to end military rule.

Abiola was buried on Saturday in a garden ceremony at his Lagos residence, where thousands of people turned out to say goodbye.

Military ruler General Abdulsalam Abubakar is due to announce a new democracy plan this week, possibly as early as tomorrow.

IN BRIEF

Exile organised bombings in Cuba

A CUBAN exile admitted to a series of bombings and assassination attempts aimed at deposing President Fidel Castro and said his activities were financed by influential Cuban-American leaders, the *New York Times* reported yesterday. Luis Posada Carriles said he organised a series of bombings in Cuba last year at hotels, discos and restaurants, killing an Italian tourist in September.

New York minus maths teachers

THE LEGEND on the Statue of Liberty exhorts the world to send its poor and its huddled masses. That ought to be amended to add maths teachers. New York is so short of teachers that it is importing them from Austria. According to the *New York Times*, one reason is that numerate Americans can earn far more in the computer industry.

Russia still seeking IMF bail-out

TALKS BETWEEN Russia and the International Monetary Fund failed yesterday to produce a multi-billion-dollar loan deal sought by Moscow to ease a financial and economic crisis. A government source said he thought a deal would be reached "very soon".

Beany babies smuggling scandal

THE UNITED STATES Trade Representative smuggled stuffed "beany babies" into the US after her trip with President Bill Clinton to China. Charlene Barshefsky bought some for her two daughters - despite a US Customs rule that only one per family can be brought in from abroad.

JOHN WALSH

"Martin Luther King, one finger raised, one palm extended, appears to be doing some funky back-step routine"

— THE MONDAY REVIEW, PAGE 5

At the new airport it's time to eat dead cat

CITY LIFE HONG KONG

IN BRITAIN there is a tendency to see a lead lining to every cloud. In Hong Kong people are more optimistic and are forever spotting silver linings.

In the past week, however, Hong Kong people have become exceedingly British. The whole place has been enveloped in an enormous cloud called the Hong Kong International Airport, which has its disastrous opening a week ago.

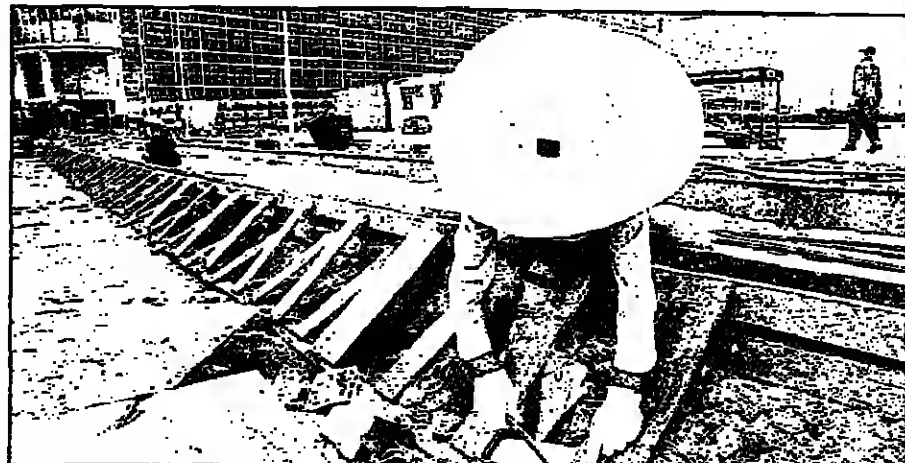
Those of a sunny disposition have been replaced by eager purveyors of airport horror stories: "Did you hear about Auntie May? She waited so long for her baggage that she had to be taken to a rest room for revival. But the water was turned off so they couldn't give her anything to drink."

"Oh, that's nothing. My client's just come in from England. He was stuck on the tarmac for hours before they even managed to get the doors of the plane open. Then he tried to get his baggage, well it just didn't come so at three o'clock in the morning he gave up and asked them to send it on."

The ever-buzzing radio phone-in programmes are full of callers describing the new airport as a "disgrace", a "nightmare", a "shame to Hong Kong" and a "total disaster".

It is hard to exaggerate the unusually important part Hong Kong's airport plays in the life of this self-consciously international community. For a start this is a population perpetually on the move.

Secondly, it is hard to find a Hong Kong Chinese family that does not have relatives living overseas. When families go to visit their relatives or welcome them to Hong Kong the whole brood turns up at the airport. Departing and arriving without the brood is not only a



A worker building a pavement outside the terminal

Anat Givoni/AP



serious loss of face but is, well, downright unnatural. So the airport is perpetually filled with hordes of well-wishers who chatter at great volume and take photos of each other.

The other reason the airport is vital is that Hong Kong makes practically nothing these days. Everything from loo roll to fresh food and notebooks has to be imported, much of it by air.

The collapse of the new airport cargo-handling facility has already started to cause shortages.

Huge mounds of rotting fruit, vegetables, fish and meat are symbols of the new airport's inability to find a way of sorting the cargo and getting it to its owners.

Naturally people think someone should be held responsible or as the Cantonese say rather more graphically, someone must "eat the dead cat".

Suspect number one seems to be a tall American called Hank Townsend. He has emerged from relative obscurity to become very well known indeed. Dr Townsend is the chief executive of the airport authority.

He is a corporate man to his very fingertips and was clearly less than comfortable when hailed before a panel of legislators who wanted him to explain what had gone wrong. "Mr Townsend, do you share the people's feeling of shame and

remorse, and will you consider resigning for your faults?", asked Cheung Man-kwong, a deceptively mild-looking former teacher.

Dr Townsend said that what had happened was all very regrettable and unforeseeable. He shifted uneasily in his seat. As for resignation, um, this was "a personal matter".

This exchange was played time and again on television news broadcasts and, to put it mildly, did not go down very well with local people, who wondered why Dr Townsend and his previously very confident team of advisers had managed not to foresee that the cargo terminal might collapse, that the air conditioning, the flight information system, the baggage handling system etc might go on the blink. Not to mention escalators breaking down all over the place and lavatories erupting into a medley of evil odours.

The scent of blood is in the air. Many people would be

happy to see a foreigner eating the dead cat.

AS IF airport trauma were not enough, families have been anxiously awaiting slips of paper telling them which secondary schools will accommodate their offspring. At the best of times school allocation is a fraught matter but this year it is infinitely more so because the government has reduced the number of schools allowed to teach in English. Most parents move heaven and earth to get their children to English schools. Many were disappointed this time around.

It seems this will make parents even more determined to strap their children to their seats to get better examination results. I went to dinner with some friends recently and inquired where their son was. "He's studying for exams," said his mother. The boy is four years old.

STEPHEN VINES

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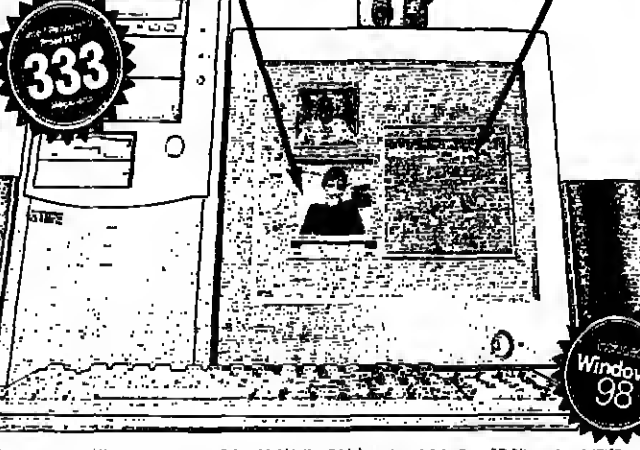
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CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 6 (Jackpot)	12	£1,666,667	£20,000,004
Match 6 plus bonus ball	124	£21,593	£2,677,532
Match 5	1,948	£1,081	£2,103,288
Match 4	76,800	£47	£3,609,600
Match 3	1,243,244	£10	£12,432,440
TOTALS	1,321,728		£24,322,964

Total Sales including Instanta and Wednesday Draw: £114,796,111

Total week's contribution to Good Causes: £30,900,000

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Car parts group plans takeover

FINELIST, the car parts group, is planning a £180m-plus takeover of its troubled rival **Partco**, in a deal which would create Britain's largest component distributor. Finelist is understood to have approached Partco at the end of last week and was still waiting for an answer from the company's management yesterday.

At a meeting on Wednesday Partco's shareholders urged Philip Wragg, the chief executive, to consider a tie-up with one of its rivals to resurrect the company's fortunes. Partco shares slumped 17 per cent at the end of June after a profit warning. However, speculation of a takeover pushed them higher on Friday when they closed up 16p to 232.5p. Finelist shares closed unchanged at 296.5p.

Audi buys Cosworth engine maker



AUDI, the German car maker owned by Volkswagen, yesterday bought **Cosworth**, the specialist engine maker, from Vickers for £117m. The sale was largely expected following VW's £479m purchase of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars from Vickers. Last year Cosworth posted operating profits of £5.3m on turnover of £116.9m.

The great government sell-off

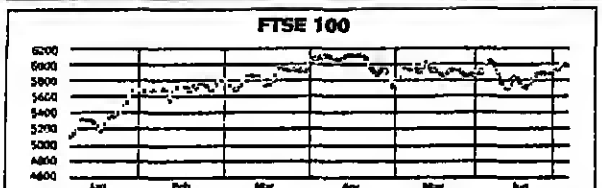
WHEN GORDON BROWN, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, unveils his Comprehensive Spending Review tomorrow, all eyes will be on attention-grabbing items like his plan to conjure up £25bn for hospitals and schools. But to understand how Mr Brown intends to balance the books, it will be equally important to see how much of the state he plans to sell off. He has set out plans to raise £1bn a year through asset sales and a further £2.75bn from local authority asset sales.

New Analysis, page 15

Xfm man plans Scottish station

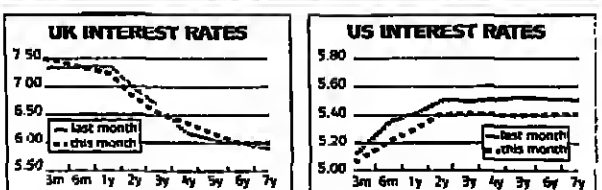
CHRIS PARRY, founder of alternative music station Xfm, and Alan McGee, chairman of Creation Records, plan to apply for an independent radio licence to broadcast to a potential audience of 2.3 million people in central Scotland. Mr Parry stands to receive £2.6m for his holding if Capital Radio's bid for Xfm is approved by the OFT.

STOCK MARKETS



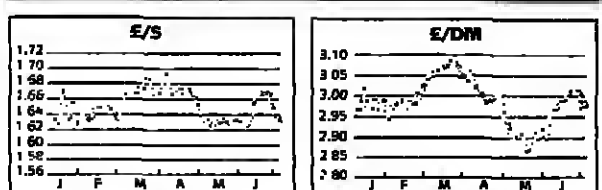
Index	Close	Wk's ch	Wk's ch (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5929.70	-58.70	-0.98	6150.5	4382.8	3.862
FTSE 250	5628.80	43.10	0.77	5970.9	4384.2	3.397
FTSE 350	2862.00	-19.00	-0.66	2940.1	2141.8	3.774
FTSE All Share	2787.48	-19.09	-0.68	2872.04	2106.59	3.741
FTSE SmallCap	2578.90	-25.60	-0.98	2793.8	2182.1	3.294
FTSE Fledgling	1413.60	-16.30	-1.14	1517.1	1229.2	3.376
FTSE AIM	1092.00	0.60	0.04	1146.9	969.9	1.193
FTSE EBLCC 100	1083.94					
Dow Jones	9105.74	81.51	0.90	9261.91	6971.32	1.569
Nikkei	16090.06	-421.18	-2.53	20698.67	14488.21	0.949
Hong Kong	8205.77	-433.54	-5.02	16620.31	7351.68	4.988
Dax	5982.42	29.26	0.49	6052.13	3487.24	2.656

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	10 year	15 year	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	7.81	7.73	7.88	6.38	5.79	1.30	5.38
US	5.69	5.06	5.80	4.23	5.41	0.84	5.63
Japan	0.62	-0.02	0.65	-0.15	1.67	0.88	2.20
Germany	3.55	0.42	3.82	0.55	4.66	0.90	5.28

CURRENCIES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	10 year	15 year	Long bond	Yr chg
US	1.6323	-1.54c	1.6881				0.5924
Yen	2.9688	-2.68pt	2.9571				1.7505
Yen	230.40	+0.75	190.95				113.12
Euro	105.50	-1.80	103.80				102.20

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Chg	Wk's ch	Yr ago	Index	Chg	Wk's ch	Yr ago
Brent Oil (\$)	11.54	-0.44	18.06	US 10-year	3.00	111.46	Aug
Gold (\$)	290.85	-3.90	319.90	RPI	163.50	4.20	156.91
Silver (\$)	5.30	-0.15	4.34	Base Rates	7.50		6.75

www.bloomberg.com/uk

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.7103	Mexican (new peso)	12.96
Austria (schillings)	13.90	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1925
Belgium (francs)	58.53	New Zealand (\$)	3.1748
Canada (\$)	2.3333	Norway (krone)	12.04
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8289	Portugal (escudos)	287.90
Denmark (krone)	10.86	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.9842
Finland (markka)	8.8645	Singapore (\$)	2.6990
France (francs)	9.5085	Spain (pesetas)	240.24
Germany (marks)	2.8441	South Africa (rand)	6.1793
Greece (drachma)	477.76	Sweden (krona)	12.64
Hong Kong (\$)	12.30	Switzerland (francs)	2.3572
Ireland (pounds)	1.1220	Thailand (bahts)	64.08
India (rupees)	63.65	Turkey (liras)	409.89
Israel (shekels)	5.5158	USA (\$)	1.5888
Italy (lira)	2802		
Japan (yen)	228.70		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.2784		
Malta (lira)	0.6188		

Notes for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

Forecasters warn of outright recession

THE UK ECONOMY probably faces a hard landing and possibly stagnation, the combination of stagnation and inflation, in 1999, according to the latest batch of economic forecasts today. Economic growth will slow to just 0.8 per cent next year as the combination of strong sterling and rising interest rates takes effect, and an outright recession cannot be ruled out, according to the merchant bank Schroder.

By Clifford German

around 1 per cent of extra consumer spending in the last year. And, unlike in 1987 when the then Chancellor Nigel Lawson cut interest rates in the aftermath of the stock market crash, the Bank of England now is likely to view a downturn in asset prices as being helpful in slowing the economy.

Oxford Economic Forecasting also warns of the prospect of stagnation, especially if the current high levels of earnings growth persuade the Bank of England to put up interest rates again, and, in the process, actively prevents any easing in the exchange rate. The prospects for manufacturing industry are already bleak, and the trade balance is worsening and threatening a decline in investment.

Signs of a downturn in the service sector are also now beginning to appear.

Only consumer spending is still buoyant, fuelled by recent heavy bonus payments and there is a real risk that the Bank of England's monetary policy committee will overdo the tightening of interest rates, the OEF report says.

Even with just one more rise in interest rates, economic growth will slow to 1.7 per cent next year, it says.

In the meantime the best prospects for avoiding the over-tightening of policy are a reduction in earnings growth as bonus payments fade from the picture, and an early indication of a spontaneous slowdown in consumer spending.

Meanwhile business confidence has fallen to its lowest

level for five years, according to the latest survey by Dun & Bradstreet. Confidence is highest in London and the South-east and lowest in the English Midlands. It is still above average in Scotland and North-west England, and below the national average in Wales.

There are also growing signs that the clearing banks are set to repeat the mistake they made at the start of the last recession when they began withdrawing loan facilities on which most small businesses depend for working capital, pushing more than 1,000 firms a week into bankruptcy at the height of the recession.

Officially banks deny any changes of policy but both the CBI's small firms unit and the Federation of Small Businesses have detected signs of a

hardening attitude. Increasing redundancies are also in prospect, with motor industry experts claiming that Rover will be forced to cut back on its 40,000 strong labour force this summer. The unconfirmed warnings come only shortly after the company said it would have to consider buying its components overseas in future because of the strength of sterling.

There are also signs that borrowers are trimming their spending. More than 93 per cent of borrowers are up to date with their credit repayments at the end of the second quarter of the year. But the proportion of credit card accounts in arrears is up slightly to 14.5 per cent and the proportion of mobile phone bills in arrears has doubled in a year.

Asia 'needs action from Japan'

By Francesco Guerrera

ASIAN FINANCIAL markets are set to remain weak and unstable for the foreseeable future unless Japan takes action to revitalise its ailing economy, according to a report yesterday.

In its latest Financial Market Trends survey, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development warned that the woes of the region's most important economy have dented investors' confidence in Asian equities and bonds.

The Paris-based organisation dampened hopes of a rapid recovery from the latest bout of financial instability in Asia and predicted that "financial markets in the region are likely to remain vulnerable to pressure, as long as the economic slump and weakness in the yen persist".

Last month's joint intervention by the US and Japan to prop the yen after it had fallen to an eight-year low against the dollar was a step in the right direction, the OECD said. But Asia's long-term financial health could only be restored if the Japanese government speeded up a restructuring of the banking sector and the implementation of other measures to boost the confidence of consumers and investors.

The OECD report said the Asian turmoil had left international investors "cautious and skittish with respect to emerging markets investments". This has led to a spill-over to other emerging markets such as Russia, South Africa, Mexico and Brazil. The international investors' flight has left a number of emerging economies without a sufficient stream of capital inflows, increasing the risk of a "complete loss of confidence... and a collapse in exchange rates and asset prices".

The diagnosis is at odds with a survey published today which shows that Continental European fund managers are becoming more optimistic on the prospects for the Tokyo Stock Exchange. The study, carried out by Gallup for the US investment bank Merrill Lynch, says that a large number of investors believe the Nikkei index has hit the bottom and is due to rebound.

Chain store sector set for mergers

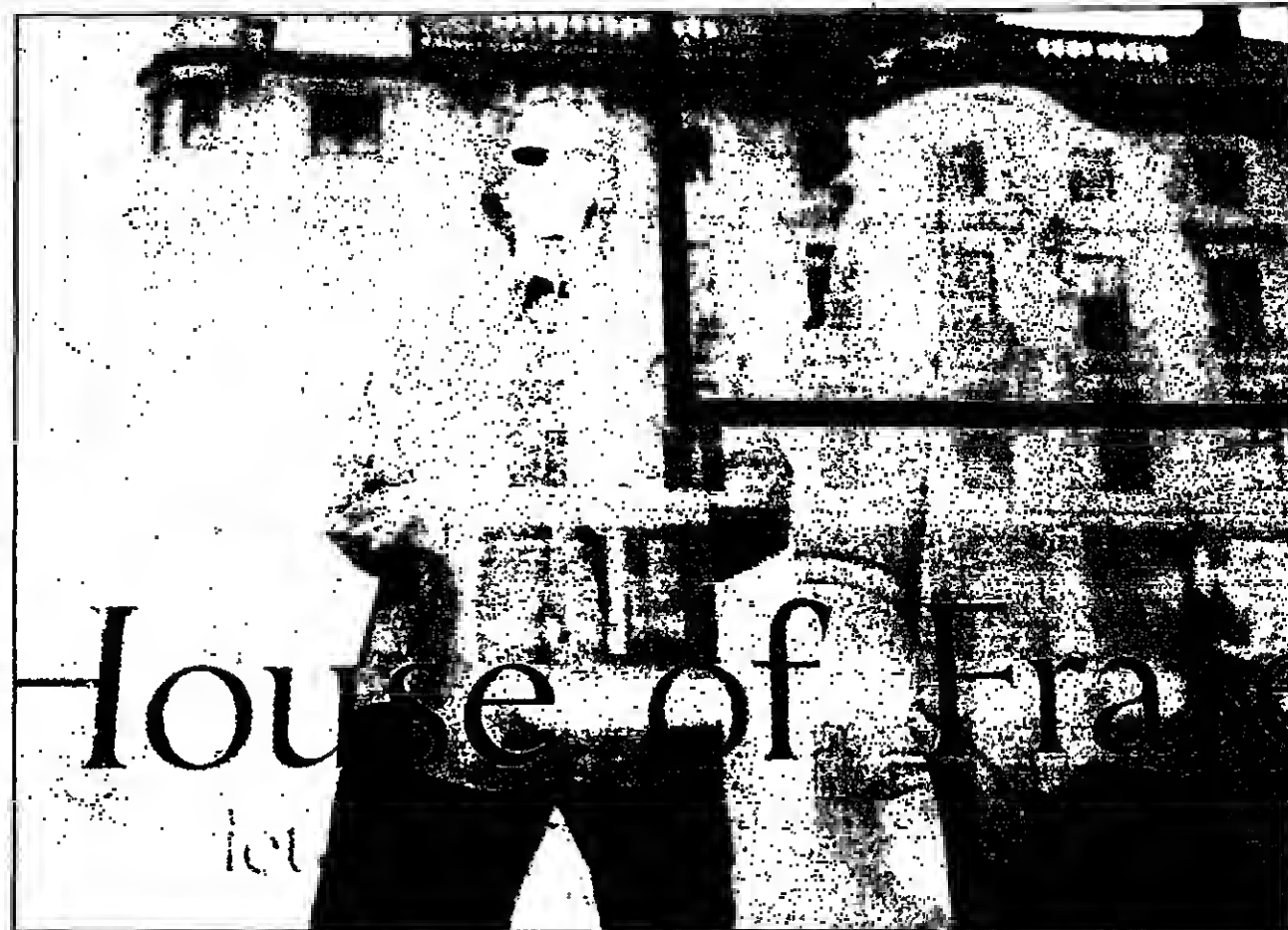
By Nigel Cope
Associate City Editor

THE DEPARTMENT store sector could be heading for a period of merger and takeover activity, according to new report published today.

Though department stores have been growing in popularity with groups such as Marks & Spencer, John Lewis and Debenhams becoming increasingly dominant, second-division players will find it harder to compete, says the report by Verdict, the retail consultants.

"Putting together a national chain out of some of the second-division multiples would create a stronger entity able to compete with the leaders," it states.

It adds that friendly mergers of even fiercely independent businesses could be on the agenda. Though Verdict does not name potential candidates,



House of Fraser is one of the chains planning new branches in a period of unprecedented expansion

they could include groups such as Beales, Bents, TJ Hughes and Upton & Southern.

Further pressure is being exerted by the major chains, which are embarking on a period of unprecedented expansion.

Debenhams, which has 12.2 per cent of the market, is also expanding rapidly and has identified 16 potential sites for new stores. House of Fraser and Alders are planning to add new branches. Selfridges

and Harvey Nichols are also looking at new outlets. Verdict's report says that the UK department store sector was worth £12.6bn last year and accounts for an eighth of non-retail spending in Britain.

Gartmore warns of risk to capital

By Andrew Verity

GARTMORE, THE investment manager, has stepped up its battle to retain control of the £596m Scottish National Trust by warning shareholders of potentially devastating risks to their capital if they accept a hostile bid from Aberdeen Investment Trusts.

The NatWest subsidiary accused Abtrust of offering investors such a high income it would be forced to invest in junk bonds and highly-gearred securities in order to match its promises.

Gartmore said holders of income shares - promised a yield of 13 per cent a year if they switch to Aberdeen Preferred Investment Trust - would have to be "very, very optimistic" about stockmarket growth prospects or be prepared for their capital to shrink.

Abtrust launched a hostile bid last Thursday for Scottish National, severely disrupting Gartmore's plans to carry on managing Scottish National's assets by rolling investments over into a new trust. Scottish National is due to wind up by the end of September.

Charlie Ricketts, head of marketing at Gartmore, said Abtrust's offer to shareholders was "extremely high" and required a yield twice as high as the rest of the stockmarket.

"The only way they can do that is to invest in either junk bonds or geared income shares in other investment trusts."

Firms ask too much of investments

By Michael Harrison

BRITISH FIRMS are continuing to demand rates of return on new investments that are far too high, undermining industry's ability to re-equip and close the productivity gap with competitor countries, a survey warns today.

The report, from the Confederation of British Industry, shows that "hurdle rates" for major investment projects are 50 per cent higher than they need to be, while the payback periods required are much shorter than in countries such as Germany.

The findings are being sent to the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, and the President of the Board of Trade, Margaret

Beckett, who is preparing a new White Paper on competitiveness.

The CBI survey of more than 300 firms showed that they expected to earn an internal rate of return averaging 17 per cent and recover the cost of their investment in two to four years. But actuarial experts said that post-tax real returns of 10 per cent were sufficient to justify most investments.

Chris Waites of the Association of Consulting Actuaries, which carried out the survey jointly with the CBI, said one of the consequences of excessively high hurdle rates was

lower investment.

Another danger was that companies would favour "speculative" projects where the risks of failure were higher but the potential returns much bigger. "This may be leading to poor investment decisions," he added.

The latest findings are similar to the results of a CBI survey four years ago, although Kate Barker, the CBI's chief economist said there were now fewer instances of companies setting targets for investment returns in excess of 20 per cent. She said there was no clear evidence that high hurdle rates were choking off investment and that there would have to be a big reduction in the required level of returns to make a significant difference.

However, Britain's poor investment record continues to be a concern both for the CBI and government ministers. The latest official figures show manufacturing investment continuing to fall, while the CBI's last quarterly industrial trends survey showed that investment intentions are at their lowest level for five years.

"In both the surveys we found high rates of return expected, and it is certainly the case that we have a manufacturing investment problem," said Ms Barker. "But there is no

evidence that investment would be higher if hurdle rates were lower."

Uncertainty about levels of demand continued to be the main drag on investment, she added.

The survey shows that small firms set the highest hurdle rates - averaging 24 per cent. Two thirds of all firms said that projects which failed to meet the required level of return were seldom or never given the go-ahead.

Only 2 per cent of firms said the Chancellor Gordon Brown's move to cut Corporation Tax and abolish dividend tax credits would encourage them to invest more.

Football stars are the goal for banks

By Clifford German

CREDIT SUISSE Private Banking, which set up a specialist Sport Division a year ago, is making a pitch for the right to manage the multi-million pound finances of UK football megastars, whose earnings have reached a crescendo in World Cup 98.

England's World Cup squad would have made the best part of £1m each if they had won the tournament. As it is they will bank an estimated £250,000 for each member of the squad.

Sports stars are notoriously at risk when it comes to handling their finances.

Boxing history is littered with sad cases of champions who have frittered away fortunes or had their earnings drained away by armies of hangers-on and have ended up losing their money as well as their health. Golfers, however,



High-earning stars like Michael Owen and David Beckham are the target for investment advice

usually manage to hang onto their money as well as their brains.

The average professional football career is around nine

years but careers and earnings can be brought to an abrupt halt at any time by injury.

Top professionals have agents to help maximise their earnings from transfers, appearances and sponsorship deals but agents' fees typically take 20 per cent of players' earnings.

Ideally players should negotiate tiered fees with their agents, with payments spread throughout their careers and varied with the amounts they earn, says Geoffrey Russell, head of Credit Suisse Private Banking in London.

Players also run the risk of losing potential earnings through poor management of their money.

Sound planning starts with choosing an independent financial adviser to suggest a range of medium and long-term investments and make the best use of tax-free investment opportunities. Flexible pension plans are also an essential tool.

The Professional Footballers Association provides a good plan but players rarely invest enough, says Credit Suisse.

Flexible mortgages are also important so that lenders and players can be sure that substantial lump sums can be paid in without penalties.

Each season 50 professional soccer players suffer injuries which effectively end their careers, so fully comprehensive critical illness cover and injury cover both in and out of season is also crucial.

How the US miracle might end

PROFESSOR WYNNE GODLEY became famous in the 1970s and 1980s for his generally pessimistic assessments of the prospects for the UK economy. These were based on Keynesian economic modelling, undertaken at Cambridge University, with much emphasis being placed on the potential damage which could be caused by imbalances between private sector income and expenditure. In particular, Godley pointed out in the late 1980s that a burgeoning excess of spending over income would one day need to be corrected, and that a recession would ensue when that happened. The debacle of the early 1990s proved him right.

Recently, Godley has moved to the Jerome Levy Economic Institute in New York, applying his techniques for the first time to the United States economy. Last Friday, he published in the *Financial Times* an article summarising the results of this work. To British readers, the conclusions were depressingly familiar.

Much of Godley's pessimism about the medium term prospects for the US economy is based on one simple fact - that the American private sector (households plus companies) is running a larger financial deficit than ever before. What does this mean? Essentially, it implies that total private sector expenditure is exceeding private sector income by around 2.5 per cent of GDP each year, leaving a gap which must be bridged by a build-up in net financial liabilities. By definition, American companies and households must either be selling assets, or building up debt. In fact, they are doing mainly the latter.



GAVYN DAVIES

When the private sector was forced to retrench, it did so extremely savagely, and a prolonged recession ensued

The question is whether this is sustainable. There are two reasons for thinking it may not be. First, according to Godley, the build-up of private debt which is associated with this imbalance may on its own become too onerous for the private sector to bear. If this proves to be the case, then a retrenchment must occur to bring spending into line with income, and the economy will head for recession.

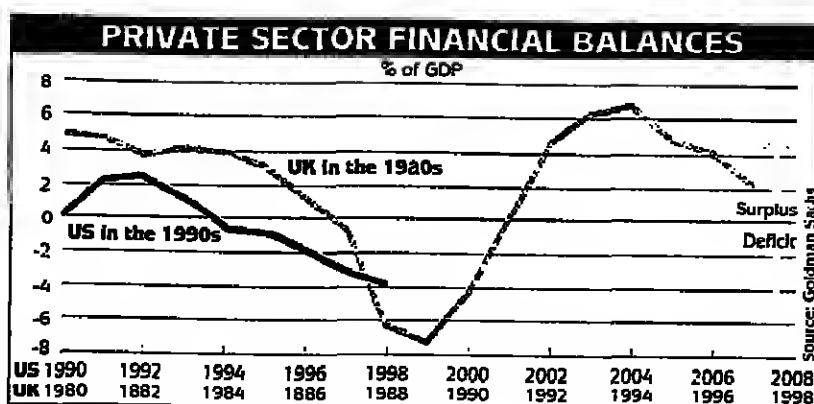
Second, as an empirical fact, it is very unusual in developed economies for private sectors to run financial deficits for any length of time. Observing the separate experiences of the 20 major developed economies since 1980, private sector

deficits have been in existence only 18 per cent of the time, with those deficits exceeding 2 per cent of GDP only 13 per cent of the time. A far more normal situation is for the government to run a small deficit while the private sector runs a surplus. If this pattern re-emerges in the US over the next few years, spending would grow much more slowly than income, and GDP growth would slow sharply.

While a private financial surplus is the usual rule for developed economies, there have been several important examples in the past decade of deviations from this rule. For example, the Scandinavian economies in the late 1980s and the East Asian economies in the mid 1990s were running large private sector deficits. Both of these "experiments" ended in disaster. Closer to home, the same happened in the UK in the late 1980s. At that time, the deregulation of the financial sector led to an explosion in private borrowing, with spending running well ahead of income for several successive years. When the private sector was eventually forced to retrench, it did so extremely savagely, and a prolonged recession ensued.

So does the existence of a private sector financial deficit in the US today make a similar sad ending inevitable? Not necessarily. There are several reasons for believing that the present situation may prove sustainable, at least for a while.

First, the scale of the US private deficit is not particularly large. On Goldman Sachs forecasts, it is likely to run at around 3 per cent of GDP in 1998 and 1999, as compared with a danger threshold of



around 5 per cent of GDP which has been needed to trigger genuine problems in other countries.

Second, it is important to remember that the public sector in the United States is in surplus for the first time in several decades. This both limits the scale of the trade imbalance which is associated with the private sector deficit, and possibly also reduces the potential for damage from that imbalance. After all, the build-up in private capital investment in the US domestic economy should generate income flows over the long-term which will help finance an on-going trade imbalance.

Third, many economists would argue that, in the absence of a budget deficit, the private sector can safely increase its net expenditure, since it does not need to save against the possibility of future tax increases to service the public debt. These economists would therefore contend that

it is perfectly natural to expect the private sector to move sustainably into deficit as and when the public sector curtails its own borrowing requirement.

Fourth, it is crucial to examine not only what is happening to the flow of net borrowing by the private sector, but also to examine what is happening to its overall balance sheet of outstanding assets and liabilities. The two concepts can differ if the price of assets, particularly equities, changes rapidly. This is exactly what has been happening in the past two years. While the flow of new borrowing by the US private sector has increased its debt at a rate of about 7 per cent a year, the bull market on Wall Street has increased the value of assets at a rate of 15 per cent. Consequently, there has been a huge net increase in private sector wealth, despite the fact that the flow of new borrowing has been rising. It is wrong to suggest that

households or companies are feeling the pinch - so far.

For all these reasons, the rise in the US private sector deficit has not yet reached emergency proportions. Based on past history, the private sector may indeed choose to correct its financial imbalance at some point in the next few years, in which case the growth rate of the economy will slow. But it is highly uncertain whether this correction will happen abruptly, causing a hard landing to develop. And it is not very likely that even a gradual adjustment process will start in the near future.

A more likely scenario is that the whole process becomes more extreme before a resolution of any sort comes onto the horizon. At present, a virtuous circle is driving the US economy forward - a strong economy is boosting equity prices; this improves private balance sheets, and enables households and companies to run a large deficit safely, the resulting trade imbalance is financed equally safely by capital inflows from overseas, attracted by rising US asset prices; capital inflows keep the dollar strong, and this dampens domestic inflation; this keeps the Federal Reserve on hold, which boosts equity prices still further.

This pattern often ends in tears, usually when inflation finally rises enough to force the central bank to raise interest rates. Only then is the private sector forced to correct its deficit, sometimes quite savagely. One day, this could happen in the US. But the private sector's financial imbalance is not yet sufficiently extreme to imply that the day of reckoning is in sight.

Selling England by the pound

News Analysis: Today's 'Domesday Book' is being scoured for any state asset that could be sold off to help Gordon Brown balance the books

WHEN GORDON BROWN unveils his Comprehensive Spending Review tomorrow all eyes will be on attention-grabbing items like his reported plan to conjure up an extra £25bn for the country's hospitals and schools. But investing in state assets is just one side of the ledger. To understand how the Chancellor intends to balance the books, it will be equally important to see how much of the state he plans to sell off.

Asset sales will be central to the Chancellor's pledge to stick to the so-called Golden Rule - borrowing only to invest, not to fund the public sector's running costs. In his Mansion House speech last month he set out plans to raise £1bn a year by way of asset sales - mainly surplus land and buildings - and a further £2.75bn from local authority asset sales.

The scale of the disposal programme helps explain how the Chancellor intends to engineer a 2.25 per cent increase in public spending in real terms over the next four years, whilst driving down both government debt and deficit levels.

The Government set about the process with the publication last November of the *National Asset Register* - a 546-page *Domesday Book* of everything the state owns from priceless works of art to the car park at Ipswich Town Football Club (Proprietor: The Inland Revenue). It is anyone's guess

By MICHAEL HARRISON

what the state's assets are worth. One estimate puts the figure at £300bn.

But what is clear is that the biggest single land bank is owned by the Ministry of Defence and it is the MoD which will make the biggest single contribution to the £1bn target. Last week's *Strategic Defence Review* showed that the Government aims to raise £700m by selling off unwanted pieces of the defence estate - more than double the revenues which had been anticipated.

The MoD's Defence Estate Organisation in Birmingham has been told to focus on high value sites, particularly those in London where the MoD owns, for instance, 63 properties in plush St John's Wood. Even after the sale of the bulk of its married quarters estate to Nomura of Japan, the MoD has 4,721 homes still on its books.

Last week the property company Slough Estates snapped up part of Farnborough airfield, acquiring a 180-site which included the first home of the Royal Air Force. The part of the airfield that hosts the biennial Farnborough Airshow has already been sold off to the Swiss Tag Heuer group.

Other MoD properties now on the block include the Duke of York's headquarters in London, Chelsea Barracks, parts of the Army's sites at Chilwell and



The Government's valuable assets (clockwise from top left): The Natural History Museum, Scottish crofts, the Duke of York's headquarters, which is among the MoD properties on the block, and Farnborough airfield, part of which has already been snapped up

Woolwich, storage and support sites at Didcot, Malvern, Old Darby and Thatcham and RAF Cardington.

Nicola Maxted, a partner with commercial estate agents Hillier Parker, which acted in the Farnborough deal, says: "The MoD has always brought land forward for sale when it was deemed surplus to requirements. Sometimes there are not many buyers around, for instance in the early 1990s. But just now, by a happy coincidence for the Chancellor, the market is more buoyant."

John Danks, the new business development manager at Slough Estates, agrees that the Government has chosen its timing well. "They are selling into a strong market. It depends which sites are being sold but

much of the land is being converted for residential, rather than commercial use, which is a particularly robust sector."

It is not just the defence estate that Mr Brown has his beady eye on. The Department of Health is also a huge land owner. Health Authorities have land valued at £607m, while the NHS Trusts is now put at £3.2bn. As these trusts are merged, and the Private Finance Initiative is used more extensively in the health sector, some of these assets are being freed up for disposal.

Although much of the Ministry of Agriculture's surplus land bank has been sold off in the past 18 years, it still has land worth an estimated £350m. Small parcels of this land - from

gravel pits and huffer depots, to field stations and timber-clad sheds in Anglesey - are being moved onto the property market all the time.

The Post Office, which falls within the Department of Trade and Industry's budget, has a £1bn land bank, while the Environment Agency - part of John Prescott's Department for the Environment, Transport and Regions (DETR) - is sitting on land and buildings that are worth some £1.6bn.

Other state assets include Burlington House, home of the Royal Academy (DETR again); 63 prison farms (owned by the Home Office), and 1,400 Highland crofts (property of the Scottish Office).

The swiftest property portfolio belongs to Chris Smith's



IN BRIEF

Foreigners want to buy British

BRITISH COMPANIES are expensive for foreign buyers as a result of the strength of the UK stock market and the pound, but foreign takeover bids for UK companies smashed all records in the first half of 1998, reaching \$47.63bn compared with the previous record of \$43.1bn in the second half of last year, according to a survey by KPMG corporate finance today. UK companies spent \$27.5bn on foreign companies in the first half of this year. Altogether a record \$221bn was spent worldwide.

Capital city

PARIS IS the European city most British office employees would want to work in, according to a survey by property consultants Healey & Baker. The French capital's food, climate and lively atmosphere were the main reasons for their choice. Barcelona came second, with Dublin and Amsterdam joint third.

Deutsche swoop

DEUTSCHE BANK, Europe's second largest financial institution, is considering buying a US securities firm, Rolf Breuer, the chief executive said yesterday. His remarks fuelled speculation that Deutsche is poised to make an acquisition to make up for the loss of its top investment banking team.

Granville profit

A STRONG performance by its three main divisions helped Granville, the specialist investment bank, to raise profits by almost a third in the year to the end of March. Pre-tax profits jumped 31 per cent to £4.5m on turnover up 20 per cent to £25.5m.

Just say 'No'

NATIONWIDE Building Society's 200,000 new members who have signed any windfalls to charity should vote against plans to demutualise the society together with the 1 million borrowers with Nationwide mortgages, according to Bob Goodall, of the Save Our Building Societies campaign.

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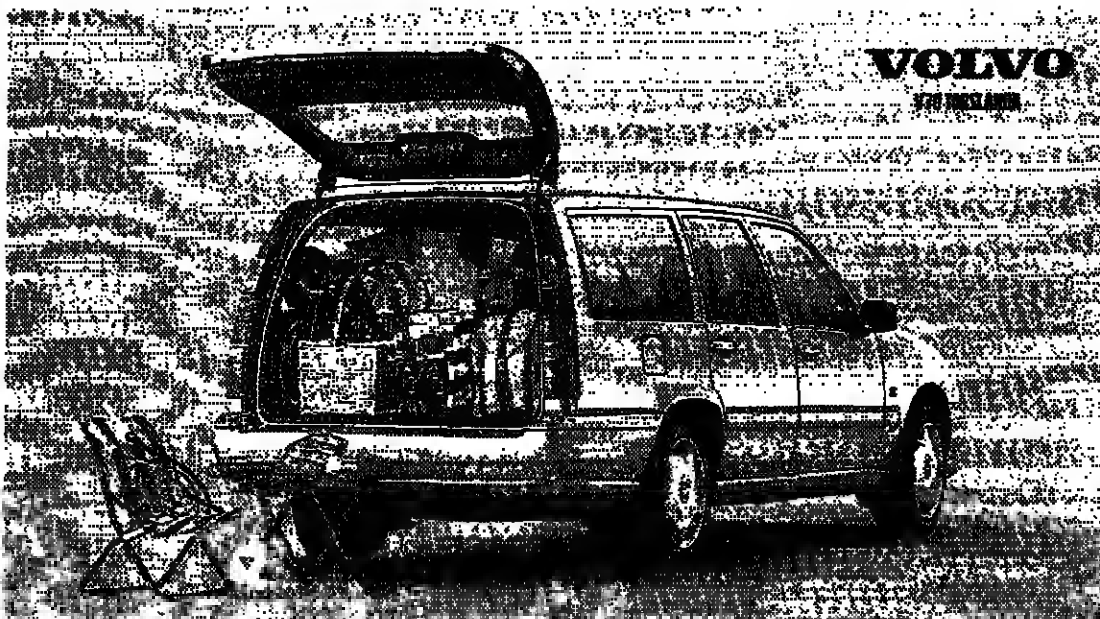
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Focus on new-look Smith's

SPARE A thought for WH Smith's management. The last few months must have been pretty hectic for Richard Handover, the chief executive, and his team, as the newsagents group has had to rebrand a £1bn takeover bid from Tim Waterstone and then launched into a radical overhaul of its business.

Out went the non-core businesses: Waterstone's, the bookseller sold to a venture-capital backed management buyout for £300m, the 75 per cent stake in Virgin Our Price, acquired by Richard Branson for £145m, and the US music business, whose untidiness was epitomised by the Pink Floyd-esque name The Wall.

The rationale behind the disposals was clear enough: Mr Handover believed the group had spread itself too thinly in the past and it was time to go back to the core operations of newsagents, airport shops in Europe and the US plus a little-known but steadily cash-generative newspaper wholesaling operation.

Mr Handover's "back to basics" campaign was bolstered by the acquisition of John Menzies, the rival newsagent chain, for £68m and by a first foray into internet book retailing, with the purchase of the imaginatively named bookshop.co.uk.

WH Smith's hyperactivity has put the shares on a roller-coaster of late. The stock hit a 12-month low in October at 336.22p but recovered smart-

STOCK MARKET WEEK



FRANCESCO GUERRERA

ly since then and closed last week at 550p.

This new-look Smith's will come under the spotlight this week with the publication of the first full year results since Mr Handover's appointments in September. Analysts are shooting for profits of £140m, up from £124m a year ago. But this time around, the City experts will focus more on words than numbers.

They will want to hear whether the newsagents chain has managed to increase its measly sales and margins figures and if the planned raft of John Menzies' conversions is proceeding without glitches.

The analysts' community will also need to be reassured that the US business is not in trouble following a recent shake-up of the top management.

On the positive side, the promise of a £100m share buy-back some time after the re-

sults should focus the market's minds, following hints on the heels of a £153m return of capital in May. More should be in the pipeline, given the company's pledge to give back part of the £145m pocketed in the Our Price sale, but not before the corporation tax changes due next April.

Much of the residual excitement in a sparsely populated reporting schedule will come from British Biotech, the embattled drug research company.

Since Dr Andrew Miller, its former director of clinical research, decided to "blow the whistle" and air his doubts on a couple of the company's star drugs to institutional shareholders, British Biotech has become a household name.

The allegations sparked off a bitter row between Dr Miller and Dr Keith McCullagh, the outgoing chief executive, which led to Dr Miller's sacking and culminated in his tearful appearance in front of a committee of MPs earlier this month.

Most of the interest will be captured by the McCullagh-Miller personal battle, while only a few analysts and dealers will probably try and concentrate on the clinical trials of the anti-pancreatitis drug Zaccutax and the cancer treatment Marimastat, the two drugs incriminated by the whistleblower.

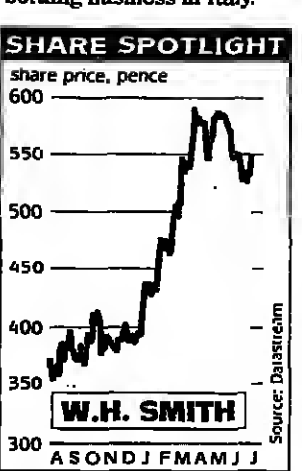
The market will also be keen to know whether Dr Mc-

Cullagh is really going in September, following whispers that he might step down as chief executive but remain in another capacity.

For those who are interested, profit forecasts do not look good. The consensus hovers around a £42m loss, shrinking to a £38m shortfall in 1999.

More cheerful news should be provided by Coca-Cola Beverages whose keenly-awaited listing on the London stockmarket gets underway tomorrow.

The company is the largest bottler of carbonated drinks in Central and Eastern Europe with a turnover of around £1.2bn. It has been formed through the merger of the Eastern European bottling operations of the Australian outfit Coca-Cola Amatil with the addition of Coca-Cola's bottling business in Italy.



The listing has attracted considerable institutional interest and Warburg Dillon Read, the sponsor, has already said that the final offer price will be at the top end of the initial 125-160p range.

Some brokers are suggesting a price of around 147p at the outset, but the shares looked set to gain during trading as the likelihood of a near-term entry into the FTSE-250 whets the appetite of a number of tracker funds.

Those fund managers who try to beat the index could do worse than keeping a close eye on the deluge of economic data expected for this week. With a dearth of corporate news in sight, the effect of the official statistics on the interest rate outlook is set to determine Footsie's direction over the week.

"Next week will be one of deep uncertainty," according to Jeremy Batstone, head of research at NatWest Stockbrokers. "There is a plethora of crucial economic data which may provide evidence for or against further monetary tightening."

Earnings and unemployment figures, due out on Wednesday, will be the key data. A fall in unemployment and a jump in average earnings of say 5.1 per cent, as predicted by City economists, could make the market very anxious about a near-term interest rate hike and spark a flurry of red lights on dealers' screens.

TREVOR OSBORNE, the property developer and former boss of Speyhawk, has apologised and paid £3.1 million in damages to Pell Frischmann Group, the consulting engineering firm, over a joint venture that went sour.

The case brought by Pell Frischmann was due to be heard in court this week. It concerned a 50:50 joint venture between a Frischmann subsidiary, Universal Project Management Services, and Mr Osborne's company the Trevor Osborne Property Group (TOPG). The joint venture was called Hawk, and was originally a division of Speyhawk.

Universal bought Hawk in October 1991 from Speyhawk to do project management for third parties. In 1994 Mr Osborne suggested Hawk start doing property development itself, and TOPG bought half of Hawk in March 1994.

The venture fell apart when it became apparent that a series of possible property development opportunities for Hawk were being diverted to Mr Osborne's private interests, usually to specially created vehicles.

For instance, according to Pell Frischmann's writ, in January 1996 Hawk submitted a tender to Richmond to redevelop Richmond Underground and rail station. The contract went to Richmond Exchange, a vehicle set up by Mr Osborne.

In the same year Hawk was preparing a tender to redevelop offices owned by HM Customs & Excise in Southampton. Again the contract went to an Osborne body, called Custom Built.

According to the writ, similar things happened with developments in Cork Street in London's West End, and in Whitefriars in the City. The writ also alleged that a series of Hawk employees had started working for Mr Osborne.

This week Pell Frischmann issued a statement saying that it had "agreed to a settlement of... claims against Trevor Osborne, TOPG and its subsidiaries".

WHO'S SUING WHOM

JOHN WILLCOCK



"Trevor Osborne has agreed to pay Pell Frischmann/Universal £3.1m damages and compensation in respect of its claims and all its legal costs," the statement said. "It was also agreed that Pell Frischmann/Universal would become 100 per cent owner of the shareholding of Hawk."

PRICE WATERHOUSE has issued a writ against Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) and its subsidiaries, claiming £500m in compensation damages, as well as further damages under the Racketeer-Influenced and Corrupt Organisations (RICO) legislation. Meanwhile PW is seeking guidance from the British courts as quickly as possible about what it can and can't divulge to the Americans.

The closure of BCCI, which had operations in over 60 countries, continues to generate huge amounts of litigation seven years after the event. BCCI's liquidators Deloitte & Touche are still attempting to sue the Bank of England for over £1bn over its duty as a supervisor of BCCI. The Bank of England won the first round in the High Courts last year. Deloitte's claim went to court on "preliminary issues", such as whether the Bank of England can be sued at all.

THE MAKERS of *The Full Monty*, the hugely successful film featuring male strippers from the North of England, are seeking an injunction to stop Stephen Sinclair and Anthony McCarten from publicising their claim that the film was in any way based on the latter duo's play "Ladies Night".

The plaintiffs are Twentieth Century Fox, Umberto Pasolini, of Ladbroke Gardens, London, Simon Beaufort of Wandsworth and Peter Cattaneo of west London. They are represented by Allen & Overy.

THE WEEK'S DIARY

MONDAY Finals: Ashted, Border Television, Druck Holdings, SkillsGroup. Economic indicators: Input producer price index (June), Output producer price index (June). TUESDAY Finals: Goode Durrant, Trifast.

Interims: Lorient, Economic indicators: Retail price index (June), US consumer prices (June). WEDNESDAY Finals: Stockbourne, Interims: Bullough, Economic indicators: Av-

erage earnings (April), Unemployment (May). THURSDAY Finals: Reliance Security, Vega Group, WH Smith, British Biotech. Interims: Hi-Tec Sports, Nightfreight.

Economic indicators: Public sector borrowing requirement, US industrial production. FRIDAY Finals: Computerland, Interims: Britannia Smaller Companies Trust.

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SPORT

'Slow heart' Els back to his favourite links

DOWN SOUTHPORT'S premier thoroughfare, Lord Street, the barnmen will be polishing their glasses with rare zeal, the restaurateurs peering through curtains to see if he is coming. When Ernie Els blows into town business is good.

The 127th Open at Royal Birkdale this week will see many players retreating into hermitages. Probably the best of the lot, though, has some old friends, old haunts, he would like to revisit.

In 1989, Ernie Els played in the British Amateur Championship at Hillside and Birkdale, but his chances were compromised while he was at a pub one night. "My golf clubs got nicked out of a car park," he says, "but I still like Southport."

"I can't remember the golf very much but I remember the town. I went out quite a bit. I really enjoy the festive holiday bit around there. There are good restaurants and it's a good fun place. We'll have a good time, man."

It could be that Els will have much to celebrate. The South African is one of the favourites this week over territory he treasures. This international huccaneer has won all over the world and he observes that British links golf is the very greatest challenge.

"The guys that haven't played it in the past should really come and treat themselves," he says. "This is what it's all about. Some of the guys say they don't enjoy it and you can keep it, but they can learn something from links golf."

"Five yards of roll on another course might be 25 yards of roll on a links course, but that's the way the game was played when it started. I don't want to sound like an old history buff, but it's a totally different game and a very enjoyable game."

Els eschewed Loch Lomond last week so he could familiarise himself with the running game around Ireland's coast. He also wanted a schedule that would look after his back.

It was at the Buick Classic in New York last month that Els first injured himself. It was the worst pain he has ever felt. "When I was 16 I had a really bad spasm but I think that was just because I was growing out of my skin in those days," he says. "It's uncomfortable but it's nothing too serious. There's nothing wrong with the spine. I've just got to take care of it and nurse it and treat it like a sick baby. It's not long term but if I don't rest it it could become chronic."

Like Fred Couples before him, Els ascribes his condition to the posture he is forced to take on his many aircraft flights, rather than the contortions of the golf swing.

South Africa's popular golfer, one of the favourite's for this year's Open, is relishing the prospect of playing against his great rivals. By Richard Edmondson

These days he is a regular visitor to the European Tour's Physiotherapy Unit, the pantechnicon in which broken golfers are put back together again. After he finishes playing he warms down on an exercise bike for 15 minutes. The back is the only doubt hanging over a man who is still just 28.

Ernie Els on a golf course is an odd alliance of power and grace. When you watch this 6ft 3in man with the gentle touch it is rather like seeing the circus dancing bear. He ambles along fairways so ponderously that you assume he must come from the Galapagos Islands. His heart probably beats only 10 times a week and it will be something of a surprise if he does not live to 180 years of age.

The precision and calm extends outside his theatre of sport. When Ernie asks you if you want a bread

"If you don't get nervous out there, there's probably something wrong with you. I try to use the tension positively"

roll at dinner, it seems to take an age for the basket to swing over on the great crane of his forearm. He judges it rude to ignore the pre-prandial offerings of tournament sponsors. And he likes to be consistent, so he does not refuse the offer of fine wines at supper.

This week, Ernie will be the slowest linksman in the west. It is a body language which suggests he can close down his nervous system in times of distress. It can be misleading. "I think I disguise it pretty well," he says. "If you don't get nervous out there, there's probably something wrong with you. You have to control the tension and I think it should drive you to better things. I try to use tension positively."

"All the guys show it in different ways. It varies from person to person as to how they deal with the pressure and nervousness. When you see Colin Montgomerie getting upset he probably goes to the golf ball and it makes him more determined. If I get upset and I show it, it would probably detract from my golf."

The man they call the Big Easy has been upset this year, though. At the South African PGA in February he threw a club 30 yards towards a caddy in fear of impalement. His countrymen were silenced by this strange action. It was rather like seeing your grandmother spitting. "I just got irritated and it showed, but if it happens just once a year then that's okay," the thrower says.

It is Els's greatest quality away from the golf course that he appreciates the kingly lifestyle he now enjoys. He was a Major winner by the age of 24 but it has not made him a Zeppelin head. There is a bit of him that would still like to be back home with the boys sharing a lager.

It was only earlier this decade that he was trying, and failing, to get on the PGA Tour. In 1991, he spent six months on the chip hutty circuit of the Hogan Tour. "It's a change from those days now isn't it?" he says. "I went over there blind, but those were the real learning experiences for me, travelling the hard way."

"It's funny because when you really need help and support nobody's there. When you don't really need it everyone wants to do things for you and look after you. You've got to try not to lose sight of the old days."

Sponsors come storming towards Els today like Cetywayo and his lads clambering over the barricades at Rorke's Drift. Adidas, Taylor Made, Titleist and Omega all give him the time of day. Bonus money will be available this week if the first man to break 70 in all four rounds of an Open can take his third Major.

Els believes it took him a year to get over his capitulation at Lytham in 1996, when a sloppy finish allowed Tom Lehman to stay out in front. Now it is another American, and a Scot, who are principally thought to stand in his way. "I have more of a rivalry with Colin Montgomerie than anyone else," he says. "We've got one going and we know it."

"The thing with Tiger Woods we try to downplay because we don't play together that often. He'll always be in contention at the Masters and if I could be as well I think it would be a great shoot-out."

"The real rivalries come when you play well against each other in Majors. Like Nicklaus and Watson in the Open. Hopefully, Tiger and I can do that at Birkdale."



Ernie Els is nursing an injury but still remains one of the favourites for this year's 127th Open at Royal Birkdale

Empics

Hard work pays off for confident Westwood

BY ANDY FARRELL

TOM LEHMAN could not manage it a year ago, but the American believes Lee Westwood can succeed where the 1996 Open champion failed. Lehman won at Loch Lomond a year ago but not at Royal Troon. Westwood was this year's winner on the bonnie, bonnie banks and now the scene shifts to Royal Birkdale for the 127th Open Championship. "There is

no reason why you can't win two in a row," Lehman said. "Obviously, Lee is on top of his game and has a lot of confidence. He'll be tough to beat. You can throw out the problem of mental fatigue when it comes to a major. The excitement, anticipation and adrenaline control how you feel, and you can overcome fatigue. He's a young guy and he can cope."

Westwood, by his own admis-

sion, did not cope well with winning in New Orleans the week before the Masters.

"I was like a fish out of water," he said. "There was a lot of hype and I didn't know what to expect. But this is not the same feeling. I think being in this country I know how to prepare for this week."

Having failed abysmally in his stated intention of keeping a low profile going into the Open, after a vic-

tory by four strokes over a quintet of players including Ian Woosnam, Westwood took himself off home to Worktop for two days. He will journey over to Lancashire tomorrow.

By then, he will have had time to reflect on achieving his seventh win in the last nine months two more than David Duval and four more than Colin Montgomerie, rising back to the top of the European money list and reaching seventh in

the world rankings, two spots behind Monty and one ahead of the defending Open champion, Justin Leonard.

"Sometimes I can't believe what's happened since the Ryder Cup, but most of the time I take it in my stride. As long as I don't start believing the hype I'll be OK. I've worked hard on my game over the last two years and it seems to be paying big dividends."

The biggest would be the \$1 mil-

lion (\$850,000) bonus on offer for winning both at Loch Lomond and Birkdale. "I think winning the claret jug will mean more to me than money," Westwood said. "I don't see any reason why I can't win. I'm certainly playing well enough."

Westwood was not the only one able to put his feet up yesterday. Five players earned exemptions for the Open from a mini-order of merit which ended at Loch Lomond, and

they included the joint runner-up David Howell. But Dennis Edmond, the Swede who was contesting the title with Westwood until a triple bogey at the 15th, just missed out.

He needed his 30-foot birdie putt on the last to give him outright second place but it horseshowed. Ross Drummond, the Scot battling to regain his tour card as well as gain an Open place, failed to do either when he crashed to a last round 80.

Female passion for piling on runs

Mad Dogs and Englishwomen
By Pete Davies (Abacus, £9.99)

NOT A lot of people know this, and few care, but the England cricket team yesterday took on Australia, the world champions, in the first of five one-day internationals.

A three-match Test series lies ahead in August, in which England will be trying to do the unthinkable to the "invincible" Australians and re-establish themselves as the premier cricketing nation in the world. Few give them much chance, but this England team is well-coached, rarely collapses and never puts its head down in defeat.

That yesterday's match was played in Scarborough in front of an expected crowd of a couple of thousand says a great deal about women's cricket. It is a game growing in stature and this Ashes tour is looked on as another opportunity for the exposure the game craves. On

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Wednesday the second one-dayer is in Derby, and the Sky cameras will be there.

The loyal few will be tuning in expecting a fine day's viewing. But you can bet that there will be those watching because of the curiosity value. They will be surprised to find that no, the women do not wear skirts; no, they do not bowl underarm; and no, the ball does not trundle through their legs as they gossip in the outfield.

Women's cricket is a serious pastime played by serious athletes, as Pete Davies is at pains to make clear in his book, *Mad Dogs and Englishwomen*.

Davies' story of England at the sixth women's cricket World Cup in India is much more than a travelogue

of the exhausting trials and gastric tribulations of an amateur team, making their way last Christmas across probably the most disorganised country in the world, hosting the most disorganised competition in history. Davies is a clever, tidy writer who lets you in on the mind-set of a group of women representing their country; who are unknown, unloved, unpaid and seemingly unfathomable. They were also the defending world champions, and Davies fell in love with them and India.

By signing up for a ridiculous trek that at one stage saw the team travelling overnight on a bus that stopped for passengers to urinate or defecate on the side of the road, Davies was able to analyse why anyone, man or woman, would be willing to sacrifice so much for their sport.

Even though the management followed the men's example in forging a "Team England" mentality, strong

characters emerge and take over the book. The starlet of England, Lottie Edwards, who turned 18 on the tour, is a central figure with her never ending enthusiasm in the face of such brain-sapping and gut-wrenching adversity. Along with the author, the reader finds it all too hard to bear but both are carried through by the English players' iron will and stomachs.

What bonds England is the common urge to satisfy a dream and more often than not, in the land of the dodgy curry, to rush to a toilet. Davies' achievement is telling the tale without needing to jump on the equality soapbox and allows, instead, the cricket to do the talking. That it all ended in failure, against New Zealand in the semi-final, did not matter. What did was that these English women were able to complete a journey that even a mad dog would have covered at.

James Corrigan

THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

- 1 *Gunning for the Double - The Story of Arsenal's 1997-98 Season* By Kevin Whitcher (Sporting Editions, paperback, £9.99)
 - 2 *Rough Ride - Behind the Wheel with a Pro Cyclist* By Paul Kimmage (Yellow Jersey, paperback £8.99)
 - 3 *Postcards from the Beach* By Philip Tufnell (Collins Willow, paperback, £6.99)
 - 4 *How Long Is the Course? My Autobiography* - Roger Black (Andre Deutsch, hardback, £15.99)
 - 5 *Only a Game* By Eamon Dunphy (Penguin, paperback, £6.99)
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Burke seals win

RUGBY UNION	
Australia	24
New Zealand	16

MATTHEW BURKE inspired Australia to a victory that lifted a massive burden off the Wallabies. The full-back scored all the Wallaby points with two tries, a conversion and four penalties to set a Australian individual scoring record against the All Blacks.

It was a devastating match for the All Blacks who were beaten in the Tri-Nations series for the first time in nine matches. They had beaten Australia in seven previous clashes dating back almost four years and the 75,127 people in Melbourne Cricket Ground erupted with joy at the final whistle.

"That's only one match so the Bledisloe Cup is not won yet," John Eales, the Wallaby skipper said. "But it is definitely a great feeling."

New Zealand took an 8-0 lead through an Andrew Mehrtens penalty and a Josh Kronfeld try but the Australian response was swift. Burke hit an easy penalty, and no one touched him as he raced through for his first try. With his second touchdown and conversion, Australia had scored 15 points in a nine-minute spell to take a seven point lead.

The All Blacks responded with a long-range try to second-rower Ian Jones a minute before half-time to trail 15-13 at the break. But Burke kicked a further three penalties in the second half to secure a memorable victory.

Assessors: Wales Burke (2); Conversations Burke; Penalties Burke (4); New Zealand: Tries Kronfeld, Jones; Penalties Mehrtens (2). AUSTRALIA: M Burke; B Tunc, O Herbert, T Horan, J Roff, S Larkham, G Gregan; R Harry (O Crowley, 15); P Kearns, A Budge, J Eales (capt), I Bowman, M Cockburn, O Wilson, T Kudu (W). NEW ZEALAND: C Cullen; J Wilson, S McLeod (C Spencer, 75); W Little, J Venter (J Lomu, 60); Brown, J Jones, R Brooker, M Dowd, A Oliver, O Kronfeld, T Randall (capt). Referee: C Thomas (Wales).

Birth and birdies on Evans' mind

GOLF
BY ANDY FARRELL

LIKE THE other 479 players taking part in final qualifying for the Open Championship, Gary Evans set out on the 36-hole lottery in hope and expectation. His hope of teeing up at Royal Birkdale on Thursday was significantly improved by scoring a four-under-par 67 at Hesketh on a day of high winds. His expectation, however, is that his wife Samantha will give birth to their second child on Wednesday.

"That's more definite than qualifying for the Open," Evans said. "The baby is already a month late, so she will be induced." The 29-year-old former Walker Cup player already knows two-and-a-half-year-old Georgia will be gaining a sister.

Evans managed five birdies at the same course where the former Masters champion Larry Mize scored a level-par 71. Mize was happy enough considering he had "hardly slept for two nights". The American flew into the country on Friday but did not have a bed for the night due to a mix-up in his bookings.

He ended up for the evening at the home of the Hesketh secretary Martin Senior in Chorley. "I'll be able to get some sleep, I think Samantha will play more solidly." Four players were disqualified. David Lynn pointed the finger at himself. He returned to the recorder's tent at Hillside to say his card had him down for a four at the 15th but he had taken a five. Instead of the 78 he had scored, he had signed for a 77.

When checking the figures on his card, Ian Pym failed to notice he had been put down for a par-three instead of a five at the short eighth hole at Southport and Ainsdale. His caddy was the one who returned to the scorer's tent to say Pym had signed for 73 instead of a 75 and an R&A official who had been at the eighth confirmed the Leeds player had taken a five.

The Indian-born Swede Daniel Chopra simply did not bother to sign his card after an 81 at the same course, nor did Mark Roe after an 88 at Hillside, which included a 10, six over par, at the last hole.

Apart from the four qualifying courses in action, practice for the Junior Open began at Formby. Among the players were Michael Watson, the 15-year-old son of Tom, and

Gregory Norman, 12. Greg Norman, who is out of the game after undergoing shoulder surgery in April, walked around with his 14-handicap son.

But while Norman will stay to watch the event he is helping to sponsor today and tomorrow, he will not be here all week. "I'm going to get out of here before the Open starts. I've missed the game on and off. But I got here yesterday and there is something about the British courses and the feel of the Open."

"I have not watched a whole lot of golf. I've enjoyed being out of it and getting my personal life back. Golf is not on my agenda at the moment because there is no reason for it to be since I can't play. But my recovery is about 10 days ahead of schedule and I hope to be hitting balls by the end of August."

Goldspink's vow

RUGBY LEAGUE
BY DAVE HADFIELD

BRETT GOLDSPINK has vowed to do his best to beat Wigan when he faces them later this month, even though he is contracted to join them next season.

The 28-year-old Australian prop confirmed this weekend that he has signed a two-year deal for 1999 and 2000 with Wigan, but intends to play out the rest of this season with St Helens.

Goldspink, currently on holiday in Cyprus, said yesterday he was delighted to have signed for Wigan. "My immediate aim is to try to beat them when Saints play them at Swansea and to help St Helens into the top five," he said.

The way that the deal was done without him being consulted was the factor that led to Mike Nolan's resignation as Wigan chairman on Friday, but Wigan's coaching staff of John Morris and Andy Goodway - who coached Goldspink at Oldham - were both keen to recruit the Australian.

Duncan Sharp, the son-in-law of Wigan's majority shareholder, Dave Whelan, is likely to be added to the depleted board this week.

Huddersfield fear they will lose their Great Britain prop, Neil Harmon, under the Bosman ruling at the end of this season. The Rugby League Council is to discuss a new transfer system, that will parallel the changes forced on football, on Wednesday. Harmon, who has been the object of interest from several other Super League clubs, is likely to be one of the first to move under the ruling.

Bedford hits out

ATHLETICS

THE FORMER 10,000m world record holder, David Bedford, has hit out at British athletes who worry more about winning lucrative contracts than championship medals.

Bedford, who broke the world 10,000 metres mark 25 years ago today, is critical at the current state of distance running in Britain.



Geoff Glazard and Halo Oscar tackle the King George V Gold Cup

Trinity extend lead

WAKEFIELD TRINITY opened up a four-point lead in the First Division after coasting to their biggest win of the season yesterday while nearest rivals Hull KR suffered a surprise defeat.

Trinity crushed injury-hit Widnes 64-8 at Belle Vue, where they ran in 12 tries, but Rovers lost ground in the battle for top spot when they went down 21-12 at mid-table Whitehaven.

Josh Bostock led the way for Wakefield in their third win of the season. The Australian

winger scored his second hat-trick of the campaign while hooker Roy Southernwood and man-of-the-match Andy Fisher each grabbed a brace of tries. Gary Casey contributed 20 points with a try and eight goals to bring up his double century and move into fourth place in the league's list of leading scorers.

SPORTING DIGEST

ATHLETICS
WAKEFIELD TRINITY (1st) 64-8 Widnes (2nd) 8-6; Whitehaven (3rd) 21-12 Whitehaven (4th) 12-21; Hull KR (5th) 12-21; Wakefield (6th) 21-12; Wigan (7th) 21-12; St Helens (8th) 21-12; Leeds (9th) 21-12; Bradford (10th) 21-12; Huddersfield (11th) 21-12; Rochdale (12th) 21-12; Wakefield (13th) 21-12; Wigan (14th) 21-12; St Helens (15th) 21-12; Leeds (16th) 21-12; Bradford (17th) 21-12; Huddersfield (18th) 21-12; Rochdale (19th) 21-12; Wakefield (20th) 21-12; Wigan (21st) 21-12; St Helens (22nd) 21-12; Leeds (23rd) 21-12; Bradford (24th) 21-12; Huddersfield (25th) 21-12; Rochdale (26th) 21-12; Wakefield (27th) 21-12; Wigan (28th) 21-12; St Helens (29th) 21-12; Leeds (30th) 21-12; Bradford (31st) 21-12; Huddersfield (32nd) 21-12; Rochdale (33rd) 21-12; Wakefield (34th) 21-12; Wigan (35th) 21-12; St Helens (36th) 21-12; Leeds (37th) 21-12; Bradford (38th) 21-12; Huddersfield (39th) 21-12; Rochdale (40th) 21-12; Wakefield (41st) 21-12; Wigan (42nd) 21-12; St Helens (43rd) 21-12; Leeds (44th) 21-12; 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Wakefield (552nd) 21-12; Wigan (553rd) 21-12; St Helens (554th) 21-12; Leeds (555th) 21-12; Bradford (556th) 21-12; Huddersfield (557th) 21-12; Rochdale (558th) 21-12; Wakefield (559th) 21-12; Wigan (560th) 21-12; St Helens (561st) 21-12; Leeds (562nd) 21-12; Bradford (563rd) 21-12; Huddersfield (564th) 21-12; Rochdale (565th) 21-12; Wakefield (566th) 21-12; Wigan (567th) 21-12; St Helens (568th) 21-12; Leeds (569th) 21-12; Bradford (570th) 21-12; Huddersfield (571st) 21-12; Rochdale (572nd) 21-12; Wakefield (573rd) 21-12; Wigan (574th) 21-12; St Helens (575th) 21-12; Leeds (576th) 21-12; Bradford (577th) 21-12; Huddersfield (578th) 21-12; Rochdale (579th) 21-12; Wakefield (580th) 21-12; Wigan (581st) 21-12; St Helens (582nd) 21-12; Leeds (583rd) 21-12; Bradford (584th) 21-12; Huddersfield (585th) 21-12; Rochdale (586th) 21-12; Wakefield (587th) 21-12; Wigan (588th) 21-12; St Helens (589th) 21-12; Leeds (590th) 21-12; Bradford (591st) 21-12; Huddersfield (592nd) 21-12; Rochdale (593rd) 21-12; Wakefield (594th) 21-12; Wigan (595th) 21-12; St Helens (596th) 21-12; Leeds (597th) 21-12; Bradford (598th) 21-12; Huddersfield (599th) 21-12; Rochdale (600th) 21-12; Wakefield (601st) 21-12; Wigan (602nd) 21-12; St Helens (603rd) 21-12; Leeds (604th) 21-12; Bradford (605th) 21-12; Huddersfield (606th) 21-12; Rochdale (607th) 21-12; Wakefield (608th) 21-12; Wigan (609th) 21-12; St Helens (610th) 21-12; Leeds (611th) 21-12; Bradford (612th) 21-12; Huddersfield (613th) 21-12; Rochdale (614th) 21-12; Wakefield (615th) 21-12; Wigan (616th) 21-12; St Helens (617th) 21-12; Leeds (618th) 21-12; Bradford (619th) 21-12; Huddersfield (620th) 21-12; Rochdale (621st) 21-12; Wakefield (622nd) 21-12; Wigan (623rd) 21-12; St Helens (624th) 21-12; Leeds (625th) 21-12; Bradford (626th) 21-12; Huddersfield (627th) 21-12; Rochdale (628th) 21-12; Wakefield (629th) 21-12; Wigan (630th) 21-12; St Helens (631st) 21-12; Leeds (632nd) 21-12; Bradford (633rd) 21-12; Huddersfield (634th) 21-12; Rochdale (635th) 21-12; Wakefield (636th) 21-12; Wigan (637th) 21-12; St Helens (638th) 21-12; Leeds (639th) 21-12; Bradford (640th) 21-12; Huddersfield (641st) 21-12; Rochdale (642nd) 21-12; Wakefield (643rd) 21-12; Wigan (644th) 21-12; St Helens (645th) 21-12; Leeds (646th) 21-12; Bradford (647th) 21-12; Huddersfield (648th) 21-12; Rochdale (649th) 21-12; Wakefield (650th) 21-12; Wigan (651st) 21-12; St Helens (652nd) 21-12; Leeds (653rd) 21-12; Bradford (654th) 21-12; Huddersfield (655th) 21-12; Rochdale (656th) 21-12; Wakefield (657th) 21-12; Wigan (658th) 21-12; St Helens (659th)

British coxless fours in gold run

By HUGH MATHESON
in Lucerne

LUCERNE put on its best sunshine dress for the final round of the FISAK Rombacher World Cup to give the crews something extra to overcome with a stiff headwind. Nevertheless, it produced outstanding racing with the sole British World Cup gold being left to last after the coxless fours were delayed to the end of racing after a breakage at the first attempt.

The British coxless four, which suffered a hiccup at the first of the World Cup regattas in Munich when their three man Tim Foster absented himself with an injured hand, and then dipped out of the second round in Belgium while they resought their old form, gave all their doubters the roughest reminder of their outstanding power with a dominant display which simply devastated a strong field of winners who proved to be no more than pretenders.

The three single scullers each fell below their own standards. Peter Haining, new to the single since his three world championships in a row, made the final and after lying fourth to 1500 metres he allowed himself to slip 12 seconds in the last quarter and finished sixth overall. Guin Batten took the B final by the neck and making no mistake finished seventh overall, while Greg Searle, also in the B final was last throughout until his usual storming finish pushed him just in front of the 1993 world champion, Derek Porter from Canada, to make him eleventh.

The young coxless pair of Fred Scarlett and Steve Williams stuck to its guns as it has all season to claim a creditable fifth place in its first race of this calibre, and if selected should do both the Under-23 and the World Championships where it can only learn and get faster.

The women's pair of Dot Blackie and Cath Bishop was disappointed. After two determined wins in the World Cup as well as several hard races to the eight through the summer they were unable to get a grip on the final here and finished fourth with the Canadian world champions from 1997 back on their best form in first.

The women's eight, strengthened last half a length in the first quarter and although they were able to pull back the Australians by rowing the fastest final 500 metres, the new crews from Canada and United States were a long way ahead chasing the Romanians, dominant for three years, over the line.

The men's eight was also last in the first quarter but in a very tight field and as other crews lifted and then faded rowed their own race to take bronze behind Germany which had caught Romania on the line after having given up almost a length at midway.

The British eight is relatively new and has the scope to improve before the World Championships in Koin in September, but will have to watch the Australian crew two seconds behind them here which is likely to be boosted by two of the "awesome foursome" who finished "only" third in coxless pairs here.



Germany's Boris Becker shows the strain as he powers a return to Spain's Alex Corretja before going down three sets to one in the final of the Radn Swiss Open in Gstaad yesterday

Rolph makes mark

By JAMES PARRACK
in Sheffield

SUE ROLPH claimed her third British record in three days by winning the 200 metres individual medley at the Commonwealth Games Trials last night. Her time of 2:16.04 puts her second in the Commonwealth and she tops the rankings in two other events.

Rolph will lead an England team to Kuala Lumpur in September that can expect to have its most successful Games since winning seven gold medals in Brisbane in 1982. Such was the success of the competition this weekend that 44 swimmers have qualified to fill the 42 places available. The selectors have to decide which two to place on reserve.

The exertions of the weekend were beginning to tell on an exhausted Rolph. "The freestyle at the end really hurt. But the first half felt very easy, so I think there's more to come," she said.

Paul Palmer outclassed his rivals in the 400m freestyle pulling away in the final 50 for a convincing victory. The Olympic silver medalist is ranked third behind two Australians, the same two who relegated Palmer to bronze at the World Championships in Perth in January.

"Despite my illness at an altitude camp eight weeks ago, I clearly haven't lost as much fitness as I feared. I had a lot left in the final 50 but I've still got to get the work in to win a medal in September."

Nell Willey and the defending Commonwealth champion, Martin Harris, will join Adam

Ruckwood in the 100m backstroke and there was relief in victory for Jamie King winning a desperately close 100m breaststroke and Vicky Horner in the 400 freestyle.

Both have felt the pressure of the trials. "I was petrified," Horner said. "I know it's just pressure that I've put on myself, but I was more nervous here than before the Olympics. At the games I can just relax and go for it."

After the success of the launch of the new Adidas Bodycut, this weekend will not only have been the sudden death trials for the swimmers but also for the traditional swimsuit. The issue now will be whether Speedo, who supply the team, will allow swimmers to wear the Adidas suit at the games in September.

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EXTRA COVER

Betts responds to new responsibility

UNDER THE motivational leadership of the combative David Boon, Durham are slowly gaining genuine credibility as a first-class county. However, it may take years more to shake off the prejudiced perceptions that undoubtedly dog their more talented individuals.



MAN IN THE MIDDLE
MELVYN BETTS
(Durham)

The Riverside is not yet regarded as a breeding ground for senior international players. Simon Brown, the 29-year-old left-arm seamer who won one cap during the 1996 series against Pakistan, remains the only player so far to represent Durham at Test level. There is no doubt the lack of precedents for picking Durham players works against the current team.

Take Melvyn Betts, for example. Durham's leading wicket-taker last season, the 23-year-old from Tyneside has 39 championship wickets to his name this summer, just four short of equalling his 1997 tally.

Only Courtney Walsh and Ed Giddins have taken more

wickets this season, yet outside the North-East the idea that Betts might be considered England material seems to have occurred to nobody.

After a slow and frustrating recuperation from a back injury that sidelined him for nine months early in his first-class career, Betts last season began to reveal the potential Durham always insisted he had, his 43 championship successes including one memorable match against Northamptonshire

which produced figures of 9 for 64 and 7 for 79.

This season, with Brown injured and set to miss the whole of the summer, Betts has been asked to take on the responsibility of being Boon's principal strike bowler. He has relished the role, although as yet his success has not received the attention given to Giddins's recuperation at Edgbaston.

"I don't think I'm in the frame as far as England is concerned," he said recently. "But if I keep taking wickets there might be a chance later on. If the phone rings, I'll be ready."

Brown, meanwhile, has switched temporarily to the position of bowling coach, taking over after Geoff Arnold moved on to Essex.

Judging by the success of Betts, as well as Steve Harmison (34 wickets) and John Wood (32), Brown is doing such a sound job he may find himself asked to continue even when he returns to the front line himself.

ECHOES OF THE PAST

MICKEY STEWART AND ALEC STEWART

Like father, like son?

Indeed, Alec has inherited a whole range of qualities from his father: enthusiasm and agility in the field, fanatical pursuit of physical fitness (he trains every day), attention to appearance and a strong belief in discipline, which those who played under Mickey's England management - Alec included - will know all about. Plus, they have both been all-rounders.

What, do you mean Mickey kept wicket as well?

No, but in addition to being a neat and well organised opening batsman - sound familiar? - he was also an excellent close-in fielder, once holding seven catches in an innings for Surrey at Northampton (one in the gully and six at backward short-leg). He holds Surrey records for the most catches by a fielder in a season (77) and in a career (604). And Mickey had a parallel career as a footballer. Not something that Alec could do these days...

Not really. But he was more keen to forge a career in the winter game during his younger days, until Surrey took him on. In the event, he did turn out for Corinthian Casuals, which was one of the clubs his father represented

in addition to Charlton Athletic, where he turned professional. Alec nowadays confines his interest to watching - he is a huge Chelsea fan, and even has videos of Chelsea matches sent to him on tour.

What else does Alec have to emulate?

A few, although none in the Test arena. Mickey won just eight caps between 1962 and 1964, and although his batting average from 12 innings was a respectable 35.00, he never managed the Test century he would have liked, unable to exceed his 87 against the West Indies at Old Trafford in 1963. However in county cricket he reached 1,000 first-class runs in 15 different seasons, topping 2,000 in 1962. Given that Alec is already 35 and has passed 1,000 just eight times, he is unlikely to match dad on that one, but his personal best innings - 271 not out against Yorkshire at The Oval last season - is 44 runs more than his father's 227 not out versus Middlesex, also at The Oval in 1964.

Does Alec's captaincy match up?

Not yet, although that could change this year. Mickey played in the all-conquering Surrey team led by Peter May in the 1950s and took the reins himself between 1963 and 1972, but himself won only one Championship, in 1971.



MICKEY STEWART V ALEC STEWART

Tests (8) - debut 1962 (aged 29).
Batting: 385 runs (avg 35.00).
HS: 87 v West Indies (Old Trafford) 1963.
First-class - debut for Surrey 1954 (aged 21).
Batting: 26,492 runs (avg 32.90);
HS: 227 v Middlesex (The Oval) 1964.
Centuries: 49.

Tests (78) - debut 1989 (aged 26).
Batting: 5,504 runs (avg 42.01).
HS: 190 v Pakistan (Edgbaston) 1992.
First-class - debut for Surrey 1981 (aged 18).
Batting: 20,481 runs (avg 41.46).
HS: 271 v Yorkshire (The Oval) 1997.
Centuries: 43.

Surrey to restate title claim

A WEEK without a Test match allows the championship to assume centre stage for once, although the fixture planners appear to have done their utmost to confuse matters.

Of seven scheduled matches in the Britannia Assurance competition, three start on Tuesday and the other four on Wednesday. The AXA League programme, meanwhile, includes a second Tuesday night floodlit game at Edgbaston, where Warwickshire play Hampshire, plus two matches on Saturday.

None the less, the week appears to present an ideal opportunity for a Surrey side nearing full strength to

THE WEEK AHEAD

restate its claims for a first title since 1971, by defeating Middlesex at Guildford in one of Wednesday's starts.

On the same day, the Scarborough Festival continues with Yorkshire facing Nottinghamshire. Leicestershire meet Northamptonshire on Tuesday.

With a match in hand of the leading trio, Yorkshire still believe they can mount a serious challenge, but unbeaten Leicestershire still appear to pose the biggest threat to Surrey, more so than third-placed Sussex, who face an

interesting encounter with fifth-placed Gloucestershire at Cheltenham on Tuesday.

Lancashire, currently in fourth place, could move up by beating Worcestershire at Lytham, also on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, England's women face Australia in one-day matches at Derby on Wednesday, Hove on Saturday and Southampton on Sunday.

Having been bowled out for 95 by the Australians during the women's World Cup in India last winter, England face a daunting test but will be keen to settle the score, particularly as the games at Derby and Southampton will be screened live by Sky.

WINDSOR

HYPERION
6.30 Quibbling 7.00 Paleria 7.30 ALMOND ROCK (nap) 8.00 City Gambler 8.30 Peridot (nb) 9.00 Broadway Melody

GOING: Good.
STALLS: Inside.
ORAM ADVANTAGE: High for 1m 70yd.
■ Figure of eight course. Level, with sharp turns, and long straights.
■ Course is N of town on A308 near junction of M4. Stations at Windsor Central (service from London, Paddington) and Windsor Riverside (service from London, Waterloo). No river bus stops at course. ADMISSION: Club £10; Terraces £10; Silver Ring £10; CAR PARK: Club £2; rest £1.
■ LEADING TRAINERS: R Hannon 35-220 (44%), S R Meade 23-51 (23%), C Wall 10-64 (100%), P Cole 10-47 (100%).
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery 35-36 (75%), L Dettori 34-143 (23%), J Field 28-172 (23%), T Quinn 18-53 (100%).
■ FAVOURITES: 10-49 (23%), 10-49 (23%).
■ BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

6.30 OCTAGON SELLING STAKES (G) SKY
£2,500 added 1m 3f 135yds
1 30-30 QUEENSLAND (28) R Comerford 4 34 W J O'Connor 7 V
2 00-00 PINEHARP (12) P Howling 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
3 50-00 CURTAP (8) B Meade 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
4 40-00 SCIMITAR (10) M Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
5 00-00 DOVER SOIL (14) P Howling 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
6 00-00 FLOWERS COVE (10) M Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
7 00-00 PEISGAH (10) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
8 50-00 SPIRIT ROSE (8) R Comerford 4 34 W J O'Connor 7 V

BETTING: 7-2 Zanyet, 15-2 Bermuda Triangle, 7-1 Dover Soil, 8-1 Peasopie, 10-1 Quibbling, 15-1 Flower Cove, 10-1 Peasopie, 10-1 Peasopie, 10-1 Peasopie.

FORM VERDICT
Flowers Cove, open to a deal of improvement, has the look of a potential market spinner. However ZURVAF has the best claims on form and the backing of Pat Eddery suggests connections expect a big run.

7.00 COSMOPOLITAN MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 2m 2f 110yds
1 30-30 ALBERTA (10) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
2 00-00 QUEENSLAND (28) R Comerford 4 34 W J O'Connor 7 V
3 50-00 CURTAP (8) B Meade 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
4 40-00 SCIMITAR (10) M Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
5 00-00 DOVER SOIL (14) P Howling 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
6 00-00 FLOWERS COVE (10) M Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
7 00-00 PEISGAH (10) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
8 50-00 SPIRIT ROSE (8) R Comerford 4 34 W J O'Connor 7 V

BETTING: 7-2 Zanyet, 15-2 Bermuda Triangle, 7-1 Dover Soil, 8-1 Peasopie, 10-1 Quibbling, 15-1 Flower Cove, 10-1 Peasopie, 10-1 Peasopie, 10-1 Peasopie.

FORM VERDICT
Flowers Cove, open to a deal of improvement, has the look of a potential market spinner. However ZURVAF has the best claims on form and the backing of Pat Eddery suggests connections expect a big run.

7.30 PORTLAND OUTDOOR RATED HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,750 1m 2f
1 20-20 SUPPLY AND DEMAND (28) G L Moore 2 97 Canny Morris 6
2 00-00 ALMOND ROCK (8) R Comerford 4 34 W J O'Connor 7 V
3 00-00 INSEPARABLE (15) Lady Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
4 00-00 KENARNA (28) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
5 20-20 EDAN HEIGHTS (8) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
6 40-00 CITY GAMBLER (10) M Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
7 00-00 SPIRIT ROSE (8) R Comerford 4 34 W J O'Connor 7 V
8 50-00 SPIRIT ROSE (8) R Comerford 4 34 W J O'Connor 7 V

BETTING: 10-1 Almond Rock, 7-2 Supply and Demand, 5-1 Inseparable, 1-2 Edan Heights, 7-1 City Gambler, 10-1 Spirit Rose, 10-1 Spirit Rose, 10-1 Spirit Rose.

FORM VERDICT
This gives the impression of being a two-horse race. Almond Rock will have his supporters following his good run behind for your eyes. Only at Sandown. He has spent a long time out of the winner's circle, however, and KENARNA, who has finished ahead of him in both meetings, is preferred.

8.00 EVENING STANDARD HANDICAP (D) £5,000 1m 2f 110yds
1 20-20 SHALADOR (8) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
2 00-00 SUPPLY AND DEMAND (28) G L Moore 2 97 Canny Morris 6
3 00-00 ALMOND ROCK (8) R Comerford 4 34 W J O'Connor 7 V
4 00-00 INSEPARABLE (15) Lady Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
5 00-00 KENARNA (28) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
6 20-20 EDAN HEIGHTS (8) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
7 40-00 CITY GAMBLER (10) M Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
8 00-00 SPIRIT ROSE (8) R Comerford 4 34 W J O'Connor 7 V

BETTING: 10-1 Almond Rock, 7-2 Supply and Demand, 5-1 Inseparable, 1-2 Edan Heights, 7-1 City Gambler, 10-1 Spirit Rose, 10-1 Spirit Rose, 10-1 Spirit Rose.

FORM VERDICT
This gives the impression of being a two-horse race. Almond Rock will have his supporters following his good run behind for your eyes. Only at Sandown. He has spent a long time out of the winner's circle, however, and KENARNA, who has finished ahead of him in both meetings, is preferred.

8.15 REDCOURT CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,500 2m 4f 110yds
1 30-30 ARABIAN SOLD (8) A J Jones 10 5 L Johnson 5 V
2 00-00 LANSLOW (40) P P Nicholls 10 5 L Johnson 5 V
3 50-00 UP THE TEMPO (7) P P Nicholls 10 5 L Johnson 5 V
4 00-00 WEAVER SQUARE (8) P P Nicholls 10 5 L Johnson 5 V
5 00-00 CATWALKER (8) P P Nicholls 10 5 L Johnson 5 V
6 00-00 DOCTOR (21) P P Nicholls 10 5 L Johnson 5 V
7 00-00 NORTHERN NATION (20) W Day 10 5 L Johnson 5 V

BETTING: 10-1 Doctor, 5-1 Lanslow, 7-1 Northern Nation, 20-1 Arabian Sold, 25-1 Up the Tempo, 25-1 Weaver Square, 25-1 Catwalker, 25-1 Doctor.

FORM VERDICT
Doctor is evidently not the horse he was 15 months ago and, even in receipt of a handy 9lb from LANSLOW, he may have to give best to the Nichols gelding, who is admirably consistent at this level.

8.15 BLACKBERRY HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £10,000 added 2m 4f 110yds
1 30-30 COURT CIRCULAR (8) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
2 00-00 RUNAWAY PETE (7) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
3 00-00 CANTON VENTURE (22) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
4 00-00 CHIEF MOUSE (7) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
5 00-00 SAFECRACKER (8) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
6 00-00 ROYAL CIRCUS (10) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V

BETTING: 5-1 Runaway Pete, 5-1 Court Circular, 7-2 Canton Venture, 12-1 Chief Mouse, 20-1 Safecracker, 25-1 Royal Circus.

MAHARAJ RAY Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
OH SO GRAND C Wall 10-64 (100%)
PALERIA (USA) P Hams 8 11
RIBERAC W Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
0 SANHIT (21) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
SARI P Cole 5 11
SEA-BELLE A Jones 6 11
STIRP SEARCH J O Smith 10-47 (100%)
TOP TART G Wall 8 11
VALANTINE ANNA D Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
VOGUE J S Moore 8 11

BETTING: 10-1 Almond Rock, 7-2 Supply and Demand, 5-1 Inseparable, 1-2 Edan Heights, 7-1 City Gambler, 10-1 Spirit Rose, 10-1 Spirit Rose, 10-1 Spirit Rose.

FORM VERDICT
This gives the impression of being a two-horse race. Almond Rock will have his supporters following his good run behind for your eyes. Only at Sandown. He has spent a long time out of the winner's circle, however, and KENARNA, who has finished ahead of him in both meetings, is preferred.

7.30 PORTLAND OUTDOOR RATED HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,750 1m 2f
1 20-20 SUPPLY AND DEMAND (28) G L Moore 2 97 Canny Morris 6
2 00-00 ALMOND ROCK (8) R Comerford 4 34 W J O'Connor 7 V
3 00-00 INSEPARABLE (15) Lady Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
4 00-00 KENARNA (28) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
5 20-20 EDAN HEIGHTS (8) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
6 40-00 CITY GAMBLER (10) M Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
7 00-00 SPIRIT ROSE (8) R Comerford 4 34 W J O'Connor 7 V
8 50-00 SPIRIT ROSE (8) R Comerford 4 34 W J O'Connor 7 V

BETTING: 10-1 Almond Rock, 7-2 Supply and Demand, 5-1 Inseparable, 1-2 Edan Heights, 7-1 City Gambler, 10-1 Spirit Rose, 10-1 Spirit Rose, 10-1 Spirit Rose.

FORM VERDICT
This gives the impression of being a two-horse race. Almond Rock will have his supporters following his good run behind for your eyes. Only at Sandown. He has spent a long time out of the winner's circle, however, and KENARNA, who has finished ahead of him in both meetings, is preferred.

8.00 EVENING STANDARD HANDICAP (D) £5,000 1m 2f 110yds
1 20-20 SHALADOR (8) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
2 00-00 SUPPLY AND DEMAND (28) G L Moore 2 97 Canny Morris 6
3 00-00 ALMOND ROCK (8) R Comerford 4 34 W J O'Connor 7 V
4 00-00 INSEPARABLE (15) Lady Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
5 00-00 KENARNA (28) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
6 20-20 EDAN HEIGHTS (8) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
7 40-00 CITY GAMBLER (10) M Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
8 00-00 SPIRIT ROSE (8) R Comerford 4 34 W J O'Connor 7 V

BETTING: 10-1 Almond Rock, 7-2 Supply and Demand, 5-1 Inseparable, 1-2 Edan Heights, 7-1 City Gambler, 10-1 Spirit Rose, 10-1 Spirit Rose, 10-1 Spirit Rose.

FORM VERDICT
This gives the impression of being a two-horse race. Almond Rock will have his supporters following his good run behind for your eyes. Only at Sandown. He has spent a long time out of the winner's circle, however, and KENARNA, who has finished ahead of him in both meetings, is preferred.

8.15 REDCOURT CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,500 2m 4f 110yds
1 30-30 ARABIAN SOLD (8) A J Jones 10 5 L Johnson 5 V
2 00-00 LANSLOW (40) P P Nicholls 10 5 L Johnson 5 V
3 50-00 UP THE TEMPO (7) P P Nicholls 10 5 L Johnson 5 V
4 00-00 WEAVER SQUARE (8) P P Nicholls 10 5 L Johnson 5 V
5 00-00 CATWALKER (8) P P Nicholls 10 5 L Johnson 5 V
6 00-00 DOCTOR (21) P P Nicholls 10 5 L Johnson 5 V
7 00-00 NORTHERN NATION (20) W Day 10 5 L Johnson 5 V

BETTING: 10-1 Doctor, 5-1 Lanslow, 7-1 Northern Nation, 20-1 Arabian Sold, 25-1 Up the Tempo, 25-1 Weaver Square, 25-1 Catwalker, 25-1 Doctor.

FORM VERDICT
Doctor is evidently not the horse he was 15 months ago and, even in receipt of a handy 9lb from LANSLOW, he may have to give best to the Nichols gelding, who is admirably consistent at this level.

8.15 BLACKBERRY HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £10,000 added 2m 4f 110yds
1 30-30 COURT CIRCULAR (8) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
2 00-00 RUNAWAY PETE (7) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
3 00-00 CANTON VENTURE (22) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
4 00-00 CHIEF MOUSE (7) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
5 00-00 SAFECRACKER (8) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V
6 00-00 ROYAL CIRCUS (10) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V

BETTING: 5-1 Runaway Pete, 5-1 Court Circular, 7-2 Canton Venture, 12-1 Chief Mouse, 20-1 Safecracker, 25-1 Royal Circus.

FORM VERDICT
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BETTING: 5-1 Runaway Pete, 5-1 Court Circular, 7-2 Canton Venture, 12-1 Chief Mouse, 20-1 Safecracker, 25-1 Royal Circus.

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6 00-00 ROYAL CIRCUS (10) B Hannon 3 8 D Dromey 5 V

BETTING: 5-1 Runaway Pete, 5-1 Court Circular, 7-2 Canton Venture, 12-1 Chief Mouse, 20-1 Safecracker, 25-1 Royal Circus.

045-30 BROADWOOD LADY (13) C J Butler 3 7 12 Martin Dwyer 2
0 650-00 FANCY DESIGN (8) F Meade 3 7 12 James Cook 10 V
Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight. Fancy Design 7st 12lb.
BETTING: 10-1 Broadwood Lady, 11-1 Fancy Design, 10-1 Martin Dwyer, 10-1 James Cook, 10-1 James Cook, 10-1 James Cook.

FORM VERDICT
An interesting handicap, featuring two progressive sorts in Sweet

Benson and Hedges Cup final: Captain Prichard sparkles amid the gloom after rain delays resumption

Essex encounter no resistance

BY DEREK PRINGLE
at Lord'sEssex 268-7
Leicestershire 76
Essex win by 192 runs

THREATENED BY the calculus of the Duckworth Lewis method, as well as a forbidding Essex total of 268, the last Benson and Hedges Cup final was not one to savour. In damp, overcast conditions duplicating those prevalent on Saturday, Leicestershire's batting collapsed in spectacular fashion, as Essex's seam bowlers mined the helpful conditions, to see their side home by 192 runs, the largest-ever margin in a Lord's final.

Humiliation is never a comfortable situation for a sportsman. Apart from their outstanding catching, and with the exception of Alan Mullally, Leicestershire's cricket was feeble and naive, an assessment the acting captain Chris Lewis appeared to agree with when he mumbled something about "not doing themselves justice".

Perhaps the appalling weather that curtailed play on Saturday had taken Leicestershire's minds off the cricket and on to a bowl-out, the ultimate conclusion had less than 10 overs of their innings been possible.

If it played a part, the harsher reality was that the Essex bowlers, particularly the new ball attack of Mark Ilett and Ashley Cowan, simply got the ball in the right place. "Over the top of off-stump," as the captain Paul Prichard put it later.

With rain finally relenting, and after some berceuse work by Mick Hunt and his ground staff, play began at 3.25pm, enough time to accommodate the entire 50 overs of Leicestershire's innings.

If Essex had to wait 24 hours to get on to the field, their first success arrived in the sixth over, when Cowan had Iain Sutcliffe well caught by Stuart Law at second slip. It was the first of a hat-trick of slip catches for Law, who also put Cowan on one, when he dived across Nasser Hussain, to catch Ben Smith first ball. Cowan's bid for a hat-trick failed, but Leicestershire's innings was holed and the rest came and went like vermin departing a sinking ship.

Swinging the ball considerably, Ilett also got among the wickets, bowling Phil Simmons before trapping Vince Wells and Aftab Habib with full-length inswingers. Only Paul Nixon hung around to top score with 21, though woefully that figure was exceeded by extras, totalling 28.



Essex's Mark Ilett celebrates the dismissal of Leicestershire's Phil Simmons for two at Lord's yesterday

Laurence Griffiths/Allsport

Solanki hits first one-day century

GRAEME HICK and Vikram Solanki tore Derbyshire's bowling apart as Worcestershire cruised to a 48-run AXA League victory at Derby yesterday.

The pair plundered 175 runs from 19 overs, Solanki completing his first one-day century, and Hick - in the frame for an England recall - blasting an unbeaten 88 from 63 balls.

Michael Slater responded with a dazzling century, but his dismissal in the 30th over ended Derbyshire's slim hopes of scoring 272 for victory.

The size of that target resulted from the carnage inflicted by Solanki and Hick following a 20-minute stoppage for rain after 30 overs. They moved into overdrive to take 114 runs from the last 10 overs.

A wet ball and a fierce crosswind added to Derbyshire's problems, but the quality of the batting was high on a slow pitch. There was no suggestion of the destruction that was to come when Worcestershire scored only 38 in the first 10 overs.

Solanki and captain Tom Moody added 96 in 21 overs before the Australian was stumped off the slow left-arm spinner Glenn Roberts - but that only opened the door for Hick.

With Solanki, whose unbeaten 120 came off only 109 balls, improvising brilliantly, Hick climbed into the bowling, cross-batting a full toss from Kevin Dean over deep square leg to reach 50.

That was his 100th six in the competition, and he added three more, all of them off Paul Aldred who had a nightmare, conceding 56 from his four overs including 39 from the last two.

Worcestershire scored 54 from the last three overs to leave Derbyshire with a mountain to climb, although Dominic Cork and Slater took 61 from the first 10 overs. Slater drove Phil Newport and Robert Chapman for sixes on his way to a 46-ball half-century, and the pair added exactly 100 before Cork was bowled by Moody.

Derbyshire's overseas player twice lofted fellow Australian Moody over the boundary, and while he was at the crease Derbyshire had a chance. His first century for the county came off 87 balls, but the introduction of David Leatherdale into the attack ended the home side's hopes.

Slater was lbw hitting across a full-length ball for 110 and, although Kim Barnett held Worcestershire up, the rest of the innings subsided quickly, with Leatherdale and Stuart Lampitt both taking four wickets as Derbyshire were bowled out for 223 in the 39th over.

BENSON AND HEDGES FINAL SCOREBOARD

Leicestershire won toss

ESSEX

P J Prichard c Simmons

b Williamson 52

S G Law c Mullally b Wells 6

41 min, 24 balls

N Hussain c Smith b Lewis 88

142 min, 102 balls, 8 fours, 1 six

R C Irani c Maddy b Mullally 32

56 min, 37 balls, 2 fours, 1 six

S D Peters b Mullally 9

A P Grayson not out 9

20 min, 7 balls, 2 fours

R J Rolins c Brimmon b Mullally 0

4 min, 2 balls

S D Peters b Mullally 9

7 min, 8 balls, 1 four

A P Grayson not out 3

19 min, 12 balls

Extras (b2 lb6 w18) 28

Total (for 7, 212 min, 50 overs) 268

Falls: 1-40 (S Law) 2-174 (Prichard)

3-234 (Hussain) 4-246 (I Law) 5-245

(Irani) 6-250 (Rolins) 7-265 (Peters)

Did not bat: M C Ilett, P M Such

Bowling: Mullally 10-1-36-3 (w/)

(6-1-13-0, 2-0-12-0, 3-0-11-3)

Lewis 9-0-59-1 (w/)

4-0-24-0, 2-0-7-0, 3-0-28-1

Wells 10-0-34-1

(w/4) (one spell), Simmons 5-0-67-0

(w/2) (3-0-27-0, 4-0-21-0, 2-0-15-0)

Brimmon 2-0-13-0 (w/2)

Williamson 10-0-49-2 (w/1) (one spell each)

Progress: 50: 58 min, 79 balls, 100

balls, 145 runs, 150: 123 min, 191

balls, 200: 159 min, 239 balls, 250:

200 min, 286 balls. Rain prevented

restart after interval.

Prichard's 50: 101 min, 84 balls, 7

fours, Hussain's 50: 83 min, 72

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LEICESTERSHIRE

D L Maddy c S G Law b Cowan 5

60 min, 41 balls

J Sutcliffe c S G Law b Cowan 1

19 min, 12 balls

B F Smith c S G Law b Cowan 0

1 min, 1 ball

P V Simmons b Ilett 2

5 min, 4 balls

V J Wells b Ilett 1

8 min, 10 balls

A Habib b Ilett 5

20 min, 15 balls, 1 four

IP A Nixon not out 21

65 min, 36 balls, 3 fours

C C Lewis c Peters b Irani 0

15 min, 14 balls

D Williamson c Hussain

b S G Law 11

28 min, 18 balls, 2 fours

A D Mullally b Ilett 1

11 min, 12 balls

M T Brimmon b S G Law 0

5 min, 5 balls

Extras (b6 w17 nb4) 29

Total (123 min, 274 overs) 76

Falls: 1-6 (Sutcliffe) 2-6 (Smith) 3-10

(Simmons) 4-17 (Wells) 5-31 (Habib)

6-31 (Maddy) 7-36 (Lewis) 8-67

(Williamson) 9-73 (Mullally) 10-76

(Brimmon)

Bowling: Ilett 8-2-10-3 (w/6)

Cowan 10-2-24-3 (nb2, w6), Irani

6-2-21-2 (w/1), S Law 3-4-0-13-2

(w/4) (one spell each)

Progress: Second day: Rain pre-

vented start until 3.24pm.

Essex won by 192 runs

Umpires: R J Julian and M J Kitchen

TV Replay Umpire: J C Balderson

Man of the Match: P J Prichard

Leicestershire caught out by the judgment of Law

BY HENRY BLOFIELD

ONE of the oldest sayings in cricket is that "catches win matches". This was admirably demonstrated by Stuart Law, who comes from Queensland, when Leicestershire began their innings in the middle of a grey, damp Sunday afternoon. In the sixth over, he held two catches at second slip, one was

excellent, the other brilliant, and they accounted for Ian Sutcliffe and Ben Smith off successive balls.

In conditions which were ideal for the seam bowlers, these were two body blows against Leicestershire. They began a dramatic collapse and it was these two catches which also gave Mark Ilett and Ashley Cowan the chance to attack

the middle order before the shine was off the new ball.

Sutcliffe played a poor stroke, prompted by the pressure of a situation which circumstances had loaded heavily against Leicestershire. He half-nibbled half-cut outside the off-stump, at a short one from Curran which lifted and the ball flew off the top edge at great speed in the direction of Law's

left ear. He saw it so early he was able to catch it two handed, almost nonchalantly.

This brought in Smith, who came half forward to and slightly across the next ball, which took the edge and went to wards the right hand of Nasser Hussain at first slip. Law was standing at second slip, a good yard closer to the bat than Hussain, in the modern way.

First slip stands deeper not to collide with the wicket keeper.

The ball was travelling to Hussain, but the doubt was whether it would carry Law, who saw the ball off the bat, thought it might not and launched himself to his left and held the ball at full stretch. It was a superb catch, one to deflate Leicestershire and pump up Essex.

Just for good measure, Law held a third catch not long afterwards, when Darren Maddy pushed half forward to an outswinger from Curran. The ball flicked the outside edge and went straight to Law, who held a comparatively simple catch in front of his knees at second slip.

Law's catching brightened an otherwise dreary day, yet it was, in one sense, mildly depressing. Yet again, it was an overseas player who had made this important contribution. One's mind went back to the West Indies last winter where Graham Thorpe, Hussain and Alec Stewart spilled catches in the slips, to say nothing of Mike Atherton in the gully. England slaps do not, at the moment, catch with the same conviction as Law.

Clark sets the ball rolling

AUSTRALIA'S WOMEN cricketers took a 1-0 lead in their five-match series of one-day internationals against England yesterday by virtue of a faster scoring rate at the Scarborough Festival.

The tourists' own innings, twice interrupted by rain, was eventually reduced to 29 overs in which they made an impressive 166 for 5, thanks to a brilliant unbeaten 95 off 93 balls by captain and opener Belinda Clark.

But, after more wet weather, England's target was cut to 115 from 20 overs and, after looking likely victors as Jan Brittin and Karen Smithies added 72 for the third wicket, they folded to 104 for 7.

Smithies hit four boundaries in her 41 from 38 balls but both she and Brittin were run out as the innings ended in some confusion in farcical conditions of rain and wind.

Clark batted superbly for the world champions, driving the ball stylishly through the covers to collect seven boundaries in her unbeaten 95.

She had good support from left-hander Karen Rolton, who hit some bold shots in her 31 made from only 17 balls.

Clark had made 34 when she skied a chance to mid-on. Sue Metcalfe failed even to get a hand to the ball. Rolton was only four when missed on the long-on boundary by Kathryn Leng.

When Clark reached 80 she became only the third player in the history of women's cricket to score 2,000 runs in one-day internationals, the others being New Zealand's Debbie Hockley and Brittin.

Scotland aim to play with the big boys

SCOTLAND OFFICIALS will step up their campaign for full international one-day status after completing a comprehensive series win over Bangladesh at the weekend. Yesterday's concluding match in the three-game series was washed out at the Grange Club in Edinburgh. However, the Scots already held an unsaleable 2-0 lead following Saturday's seven-wicket win over the side ranked 10th in the world.

Now Scotland could be granted the same one-day status as Bangladesh and Kenya at next summer's International Cricket Council AGM.

John Everett, the Scottish Cricket Union chairman, said: "People will have sat up and taken notice of our results against Bangladesh."

However, he warned: "Scottish cricket still has a long way to go to sustain the programme we've undertaken this season. We need to build a stronger infrastructure and to develop our commercial activities if we're to live with the big boys."

Meanwhile, yesterday's win may have given the Scots a psychological advantage before next year's World Cup when the sides meet again in Edinburgh.

Benson and Hedges Cup Final

Essex v Leicestershire

LORD'S (One-day): Essex beat Leicestershire by 192 runs

Leicestershire won toss

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S G Law c Mullally b Wells 6

41 min, 24 balls

N Hussain c Smith b Lewis 88

142 min, 102 balls, 8 fours, 1 six

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56 min, 37 balls, 2 fours, 1 six

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Extras (b2 lb6 w18) 28

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(Irani) 6-250 (Rolins) 7-265 (Peters)

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Wells 10-0-34-1

(w/4) (one spell), Simmons 5-0-67-0

(w/2) (3-0-27-0, 4-0-21-0, 2-0-15-0)

Brimmon 2-0-13-0 (w/2)

Williamson 10-0-49-2 (w/1) (one spell each)

Progress: 50: 58 min, 79 balls, 100

balls, 145 runs, 150: 123 min, 191

balls, 200: 159 min, 239 balls, 250:

200 min, 286 balls. Rain prevented

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Coulthard blames it on stormy weather

BY CATHERINE RILEY
at Silverstone

THE WEATHER is a particularly British obsession - the whole nation likes nothing better than to talk about it, particularly when it's bad. And it was very, very bad here yesterday.

David Coulthard, having seen his world championship hopes all but ended by it, spoke at length on the subject, blaming the iniquities of the British weather forecast which, according to the Scot, is somewhat inferior to the Finnish.

On Saturday, there had been storm warnings for the time of the race, yet Coulthard, like most drivers, including Damon Hill, opted to run intermediate tyres, banking on information that the clouds would lift and the track would dry.

Even though Coulthard heads the British challenge in the drivers' standing - just - it was Hill the crowd had come to see. In the grandstands and on the banking every other flag bore his name or image, while in the campsites most tents flew a Hill standard.

This year, as last, the run up to this race was filled with talk of Hill moving on unless he got a better car. At the half way point of the season, contracts suddenly became all important. In 1997, on the same track his first point for Arrow had strengthened his bargaining position and he moved to Jordan, where he was widely expected to bring the team its first grand prix win.

And, as last year, Jordan took the prize for their ingenuity at getting round the tobacco advertising ban. Their livery ensured their main sponsor received maximum coverage, especially with cricket's rain-delayed Buzing Hornets Cup Final carried over into a second day.

But if Hill was hoping to strengthen his hand with an impressive showing yesterday, he, like the crowd, was to be sorely disappointed.

When he lost the rear of end, spinning then stalling on lap 14, the sense of injustice among the crowd was tangible. It was the manner of their hero's capitulation - an elementary error coming out of P10 - rather than the exit itself that rankled.

England's summer of sporting underachievement worsened when Johnny Herbert departed after a similarly soft spin on lap 28. Coulthard 10 laps later made it three out of four, losing all grip and spinning spectacularly before hitting the gravel. He arrived in the pits still wearing his helmet, storming theatrically into the McLaren garage, then exiting equally swiftly and sprinting into his motor home.

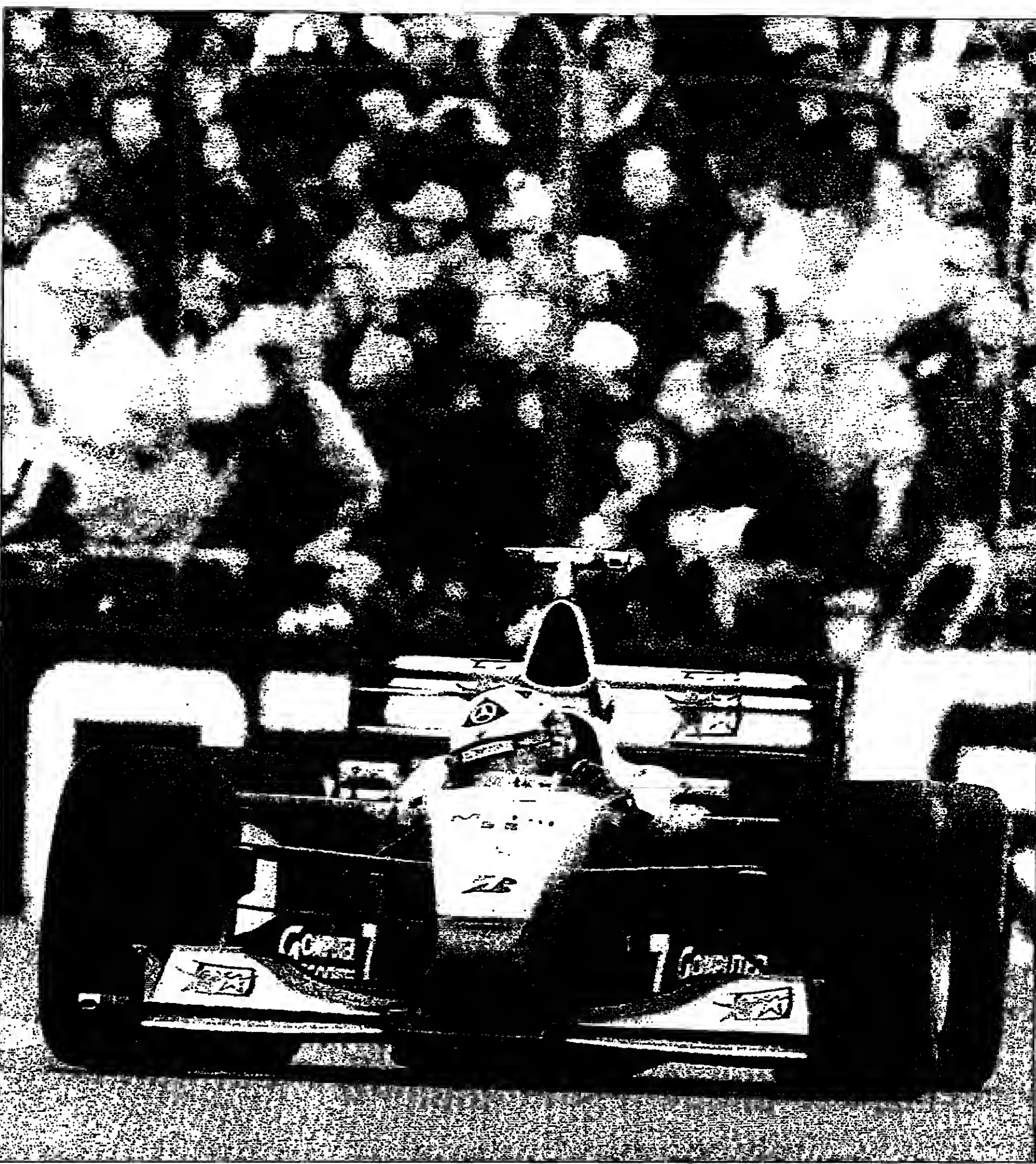
He emerged somewhat chastened 10 minutes later and conceded the championship was as good as gone. The forecasters, he said, were to blame as they had said it was going to brighten up. His team-mate, Mika Hakkinen, had, he suggested, been in receipt of a more accurate forecast which enabled him to run a more effective wet set-up.

What he neglected to mention, however, was the fact that he was in second place when he went off, lapping around only half a second slower than the Finn. He had had no apparent problem with the weather until that point.

And as the rain thundered down on Silverstone, the track disappearing in a haze of spray and covered in lying water, it was Eddie Irvine - the mercurial, difficult, trouble maker Irvine - who provided the race the British public had come to see.

After an appalling start, the Ulsterman picked his way through the traffic with consummate ease to bring home his Ferrari in an impressive third place behind his winning team-mate, Michael Schumacher, and Hakkinen.

If he has weathered the storms that have dogged his Formula One career so far, maybe it is finally time for Irvine to take his place in the sun.



David Coulthard was up to speed in the dry but lost it later when the rain poured down to drench Silverstone and his championship hopes

Peter Jay

DETAILS FROM SILVERSTONE

British Grand Prix	
1 M Schumacher (Ger)	10pts
Ferrari 60 laps in 1hr 47min	2:45:05sec
2 M Hakkinen (Fin)	6
McLaren-Mercedes at 12:45:05sec	
3 E Irvine (GB)	4
Ferrari +1:39.99	
4 A Wurz (Aut)	3
Benetton-Mecachrome +1 lap	
5 G Fisichella (It)	2
Benetton-Mecachrome +1 lap	
6 R Schumacher (Ger)	1
Jordan-Mugen Honda +1 lap	
Constructors' championship 1998	
1 McLaren 88pts	
2 Ferrari 83	
3 Benetton 32	
4 Williams 19	
5 Stewart 5	
6 Sauber, Arrows 4	
8 Jordan 1	

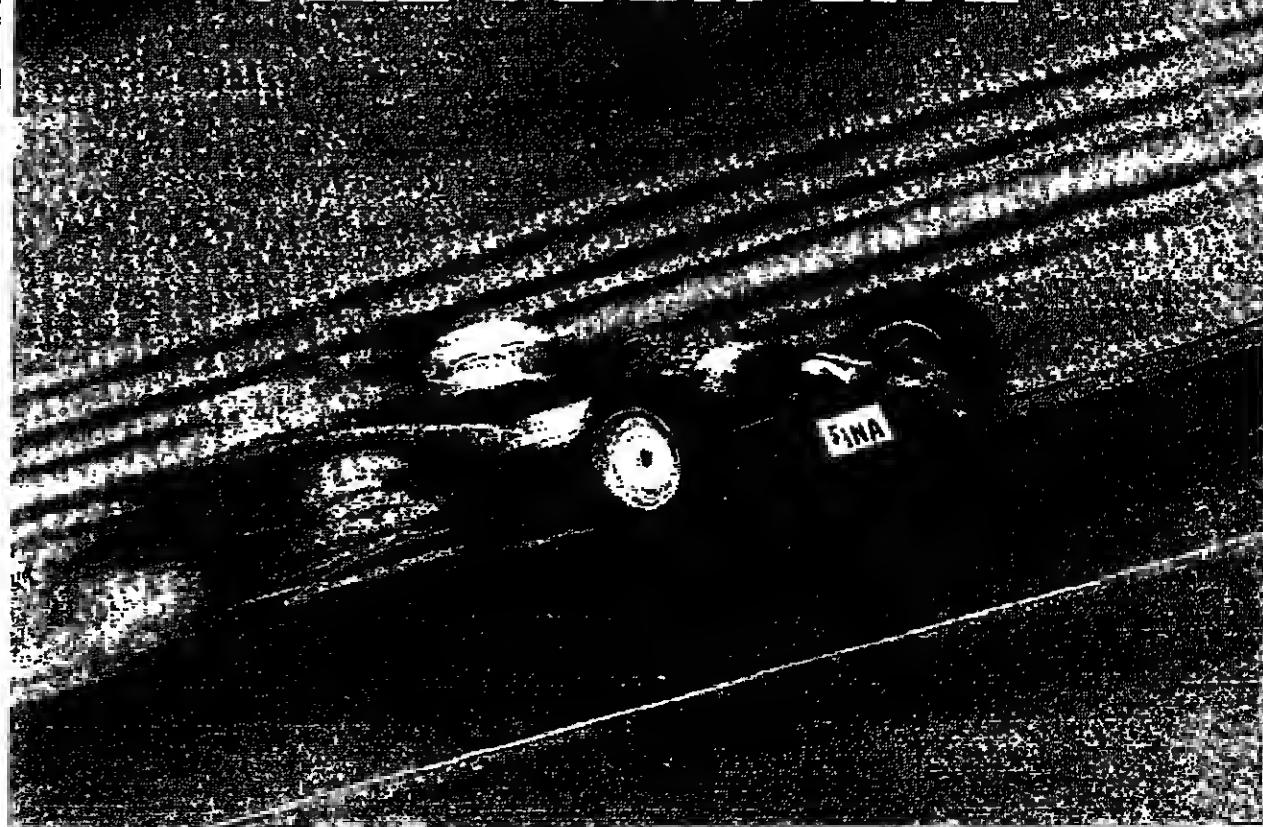
Drivers' championship	Australian GP	Brazilian GP	Spanish GP	San Marino GP	Monaco GP	Canadian GP	French GP	British GP	German GP	Hungarian GP	Belgian GP	Dutch GP	Austrian GP	Italian GP	Portuguese GP	PS
1 M Hakkinen (Fin)	10	10	6	-	10	10	-	4	6							56
2 M Schumacher (Ger)	-	4	10	6	4	-	10	10	10							54
3 D Coulthard (GB)	6	6	1	10	6	-	1	-								30
4 E Irvine (GB)	3	-	4	4	-	4	4	6	4							25
5 A Wurz (Aut)	-	3	3	-	3	-	3	2	3							17
6 G Fisichella (It)	-	1	-	-	6	6	-	2								15
7 J Villeneuve (Can)	2	-	-	3	1	2	-	3	-							11
8 H-H Prentzen (Ger)	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-							8
9 J Alesi (Fr)	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-							3
M Salo (Fin)	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-							3
11 R Barrichello (Br)	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-							4
12 J Herbert (GB)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-							1
P Ditz (Bra)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-							1
J Magnussen (Den)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-							1
R Schumacher (Ger)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-							1



Jean Todt (centre), Ferrari's team manager, celebrates with his drives Eddie Irvine (left) and Michael Schumacher following the latter's victory at Silverstone yesterday

AFP

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THAT YOU'LL
REMEMBER
ALL YOUR LIFE**



Your lap target is 74 seconds. Your foot's flat down as the corner comes hurtling towards you. Take it easy. Take the correct line, change down, clip the apex and you're on your way to the next challenge. At the Brands Hatch in Kent, Oulton Park in Cheshire and Snetterton in Norfolk we'll take you

around one of these world famous racing circuits in a track prepared BMW, teach you the ropes, then let you loose in a Formula First racing car. And the cost of enjoying Formula One style thrills from the driving seat rather than the armchair? Prices start at just £85. We're one school where everyone learns fast.



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Camus and Stourbridge Dave in harmony

MY "DREAM TEAM" OF THE WORLD CUP:

Goal: Albert Camus would be a natural, were it not for the fact that he's dead.

President Chirac has recently stated that he wishes he had been a goalkeeper. First Minister Jospin claims that he actually was a goalie. Either would do, on the grounds stated by a man in a betting shop in Lens, namely that the French State always wins.

Defence: David, the Wolves supporter from Stourbridge, and veteran of three World Cup campaigns. A tireless runner, particularly when pursued by 50-odd fully armed riot police in Marseilles. Takes tear-gas grenades in his stride. Always carries a collection of lucky shirts on him.

Denis, the psychologist. Fear-somely aggressive theoretician, who sees football as war conducted by other means. Very ably defended against Henri in that bar in Agincourt, although the fact that Henri was stone drunk at the time probably helped.

Neil from Reading. Shared a couchette with him on the night train south. Tough-talking, no-nonsense man, very direct. Likes to baffle straight, non-violent types by accusing them of being either gays or hooligans.

That grouchy *garçon* in the Piano Bar at St Tropez. A good stopper. Utterly uncompromising and hard: in fact, impossible to get round. Won't give anything away, no matter how nicely you ask. Service is going to be his weak point though.



ANDY MARTIN
AT LARGE IN FRANCE



Attack: The rogue who took my denim jacket in the station at Saint-Raphael. A slippery customer. Should he be able to get past most defences without being noticed and elude the police dragnet afterwards.

President Clinton. That was the recommendation of a group of American fans in the bar car of the train from Marseilles to Paris. They reckoned he was just about guaranteed to score. But I have my doubts about this selection. Even supposing he gets it in, he is liable to claim that the ball never went into the net.

Cantona, Joel. Perhaps not the equal of his brother at football, but a fine performer nevertheless.

There will always be a part for him in this team. In his latest film, he proves adept at cheating to win. Quite a few players in this World Cup have demonstrated that there is little or no difference between football and acting.

Zidane. Driss that is, the nephew of Zizou himself. At the age of six, he would definitely be the youngest to play in the tournament. But since he comes from La Castellane, the notoriously tough neighbourhood of Marseilles, he would still be quite capable of scaring the living daylight out of most French people.

Pele. Kad, Momo and Sandra have solemnly promised me that we will find him eventually at Le Basha. But it could cost me a lot of money while waiting. If he doesn't turn up.

Sandra would be a good alternative: in shorts and shirt, she will certainly keep the opposition's eye off the ball.

Bernard Tapie. Famous match-turner. But a marked man these days. Can be completely locked away for long periods. Never goes down without taking a few others down with him. Likes to run at the opposition with great sacks of money and tempt them into making a mistake.

On the bench: Yours truly. Having been mistaken for Fabrizio Ravanelli about a hundred times, I am confident I can look good in the gear. The illusion might be put at jeopardy, though, if I am actually brought on.

Referee: That woman at Le Nooky in the Pigalle district. Rather than giving out cards, would remove

various items of clothing as the game went on. This wouldn't work for the usual run of refs. But she has proved she can look good with only a whistle to wear.

Fans: Christophe Roy who works in the tourist office in St Etienne. He is guaranteed to stay loyal, even if you lose. In fact, the more you lose, the more supportive he is. No matter how bad you are, he will always believe in an imminent renaissance and return to the top.

That sympathetic woman on the metro train, the day after the England defeat.

Extremely compassionate in the face of tragedy. Sees in it some kind of redemption for sins. Will try to console you with the unbelievable idea that there is still life beyond the World Cup.

Tour de France: Boardman's success story deflects attention from drug scandal after Belgian team aide is arrested

Crash proves costly to Cipollini

CYCLING

By ROBIN NICHOLL
in Dublin

THE THREAT of Mario Cipollini to Chris Boardman's Tour de France lead disappeared eight kilometres from the finish in Phoenix Park here. It brought a tough more drama to a weekend where a drugs scandal infected the ambience of Ireland's rapturous welcome.

The big Italian, whose fierce sprint has carried him to more than 115 wins, was felled as he and four others tangled. Cipollini was only 13 seconds away from the lead, and victory would have been worth a winner's deduction of 20 seconds from his total time.

With Cipollini limping home, the final danger to Boardman was checked when the Belgian Tom Steels snatched victory from under the nose of Germany's Erik Zabel.

Steels' triumph came exactly a year after his disgrace when he was turfed out of the Tour for throwing a plastic water bottle at another rider in a sprint finish at Marennes. That day Zabel was relegated from first spot for "irregular sprinting."

Steels was a wiser man on Sunday. "I learned a lot from what happened last year," he said. "It was a great relief to win this first stage, because last year I got more nervous with

each day without a win. I got a little carried away by it all and that is why I blew a fuse."

Cipollini's team tried to lighten a weekend clouded by the scandal but were refused permission to wear all-green racing clothing as a show of support for the Irish peace process. The organisers pointed out that a team must race in the colours they registered at the start of the season.

As the race wound through Avoca, the setting of the TV series *Ballykissangel*, and the Wicklow Gap spectators stood side by side waving the Union flag and the Irish Tricolour. Zabel, a team-mate of Tour favourite Jan Ullrich, had plans yesterday to win his first yellow jersey. "A rider's feet slipped from his pedals, and that put me off balance as the sprint began," he said.

His second place brought him to within eight seconds of No 1 spot, but victory would have unseated Boardman whose Saturday triumph gave him the three fastest prologue times in the Tour.

Saturday's 54.193 kph was his second best, under one kph slower than his 1994 Tour record, 55.152 kph.

"This is my best Tour prologue," he said. "It is a big surprise too, because I have been going through hard times." Boardman's ability to recover from racing efforts has been reduced because of a low testosterone level, and has not helped



Mario Cipollini (right) crashes a few kilometres out to miss his chance of taking the lead. Erik Dekker (standing) and Ludovic Auger (left) also went to ground. AP

his confidence for the 3,850km of racing ahead of him.

His triumph pushed aside talk of drugs scandals overnight, but before yesterday's start Festina announced that they have called in a lawyer after the discovery of banned substances in a car driven by one of their employees threatened to undermine their Tour quest.

Voet is the personal helper of Richard Vireneque, who was second in the 1997 Tour and a natural favourite this year. The team's name is already tainted following two "positive" tests on their French rider, Christophe Moreau. The first came after his victory in a French three-day race in March, and Moreau has yet to face an inquiry.

Voet is being held by police

ened by some of the things we read in the press, which were libellous and defamatory," their team director Bruno Roussel said.

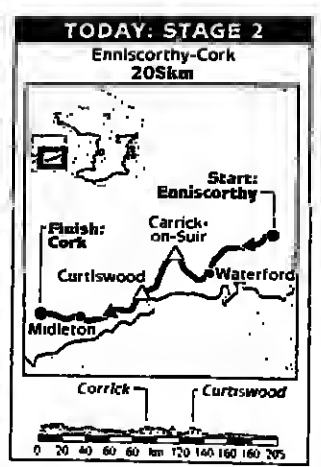
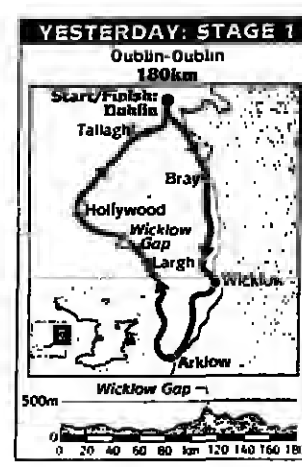
Police raided the team's headquarters in Lyon and took away substances for testing and identification. Roussel said: "I have a list of the products seized and our team doctor has told me that there is nothing to worry about."

at Lille after some 400 vials were found in his Festina team car which was stopped and searched by Customs between the French city and the Franco-Belgian border.

Three types of EPO were found plus a limited quantity of steroids. Police raided the team's headquarters in Lyon and took away substances for testing and identification.

Roussel said: "I have a list of the products seized and our team doctor has told me that there is nothing to worry about."

TOUR DE FRANCE (placings in the first stage over 180.3 km on Sunday): 1. T. Steels (Bel) 4 hrs 29 mins 58 secs; 2. E. Zabel (Ger) 4 hrs 30 mins 10 secs; 3. R. Raboan (Bel) 4 hrs 30 mins 11 secs; 4. G. M. Pagnon (Bel) 4 hrs 30 mins 12 secs; 5. M. Minal (Bel) 4 hrs 30 mins 13 secs; 6. F. Moncassin (Bel) 4 hrs 30 mins 14 secs; 7. J. G. L. (Bel) 4 hrs 30 mins 15 secs; 8. M. S. (Bel) 4 hrs 30 mins 16 secs; 9. J. S. (Bel) 4 hrs 30 mins 17 secs; 10. J. S. (Bel) 4 hrs 30 mins 18 secs; 11. J. S. (Bel) 4 hrs 30 mins 19 secs; 12. J. S. (Bel) 4 hrs 30 mins 20 secs; 13. J. S. (Bel) 4 hrs 30 mins 21 secs; 14. J. S. (Bel) 4 hrs 30 mins 22 secs; 15. J. S. (Bel) 4 hrs 30 mins 23 secs; 16. J. S. (Bel) 4 hrs 30 mins 24 secs; 17. J. S. (Bel) 4 hrs 30 mins 25 secs; 18. J. S. (Bel) 4 hrs 30 mins 26 secs; 19. J. S. (Bel) 4 hrs 30 mins 27 secs; 20. J. S. (Bel) 4 hrs 30 mins 28 secs.



Arsenal close on Ronald De Boer

FOOTBALL

THE NETHERLANDS' Ronald De Boer believes Arsenal are close to agreeing a price for him with Ajax, but his twin brother Frank has turned his back on the Premiership.

The Gunners have had one offer rejected for Ronald but the midfielder is confident they are prepared to increase their offer. However, Frank, a defender, would prefer to play in Spain or Italy, despite interest from English clubs.

Ronald said yesterday: "Arsenal have made a low bid, but of course they are going to make a low bid. They are not going to show all their cards."

"I am going to leave Ajax, that's for sure, and I know Arsenal are very interested and I would like to play there. It's a nice club, nice management, and it is very well organised. I want to leave Ajax and Arsenal is where I want to go."

The 23-year-old twins signed six-year contracts with the Dutch giants last year but had escape clauses inserted.

Frank has been one of the

outstanding defenders of the World Cup and is likely to link up with the former Ajax coach Louis van Gaal at Barcelona.

"Liverpool and Arsenal have both made enquiries but I would prefer to go to Barcelona," Frank said.

West Ham are expected to sign the Arsenal and England striker Ian Wright this week. The Hammers' manager, Harry Redknapp, said yesterday: "Ian would like to join us and obviously we would love to have him. We want to sign him on a two-year contract and there will probably be a small fee involved."

The Aston Villa manager John Gregory has insisted that Gareth Southgate is not for sale, despite rumours suggesting he was moving to West Ham.

"There is not a chance in hell," he said. "They don't have enough money to buy him. Gareth is under a long-term contract and he is staying."

Alex Ferguson has denied that his club are hoping to bring the Argentina midfielder Ariel Ortega to Old Trafford. "We're not interested," he said.

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Blatter labels tournament a success

THE WORLD Cup organisers said over the weekend that the five-week tournament had been an overwhelming success despite the rows over tickets and two serious outbreaks of fan violence.

Fifa's president Sepp Blatter, the organising committee co-president, Michel Platini and the French Football Federation's president, Claude Simonet insisted that overall it had passed off smoothly.

On the ticketing issue, Platini admitted things could have gone better but denied that the organising committee was at fault. "All the tickets were distributed at face value, they were all sold and all the stadiums were full," he said.

Many federations complained they were sold short with ticket allocations failing to meet demand, while many fans - in particular the Japanese - were promised tickets which never materialised.

Fifa, the world governing body, is working on a new distribution system for the 2002 event in Japan and South Korea, and Platini said that would be one of several areas where lessons would be learned.

"Each organising committee has its own ambitions and challenges to meet," he said, insisting that France 98 had met its own.

For Platini and Simonet there was the extra boost of seeing the tournament approach its climax with France in the final for the first time.

"We are very proud to see France is capable of staging such an event - it has been a wonderful occasion, and I am very proud of the French team," said Platini, twice a losing semi-finalist as a player.

Simonet was also delighted with the 32-team event, the largest number in the tournament's history. "We proved we were up to the job. The event has done a lot of good not just for French football but for France as a whole," he said.

The Uefa president, Lennart Johansson, beaten by Blatter in his attempt to become Fifa president last month, drew comfort from the fact that no player had tested positive for doping at the tournament, with two players from each side

having been tested after every game. He said his only regret was an increase in shirt-pulling, which had replaced tackles from behind as the main on-field problem. "I've had a very easy task," said Johansson. "Almost everything went perfectly well."

Simonet, said the success of the organisers was heightened by the success of the host team. France invented the World Cup 70 years ago, but this is the first time it's playing for the title.

"I wouldn't only want my team to win the World Cup. That's not the objective," Simonet said. "We showed we were up to the event. We have added a glorious page to French football."

"We've enjoyed our stay," president Blatter said. "We'll be back."

Platini, who campaigned hard for Blatter in the presidential race against Johansson and is expected to take a high-level job in football's new administration, said his country had come through.

And the unified response of a nation beset with racial problems to a team of diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds was heartwarming, he said.

"We don't wait for the World Cup to fight racism and xenophobia in soccer," Platini said. "The players may be from different backgrounds, but they all sweat the same sweat, laugh when they win and cry the same tears when they lose."

"I'm very proud to be a Frenchman. I think France can achieve great things."

On Saturday, at the press conference to officially proclaim France 98 a success, Platini's emotion spilled over as he recalled great moments from his past, and mourned the death of one of his closest allies of recent times.

He cried, not for the passing of his youth or the end of a job that has consumed him for six years. His tears were for Fernand Sastre, the father of this year's French World Cup, who died on the eve of play after a long battle with cancer.

"I'm very proud," Platini said. "And Fernand is looking at us from above, and probably very proud as well."

A chain-smoker away from



Michel Platini (left) and Sepp Blatter (centre) present the Croatian coach, Miroslav Blazevic, with a diploma for winning the third-place play-off

Michel Euler/AP

the cameras, Platini still has the curly black hair that marked him on the field, although it is a bit thinner on top than when he was captain of World Cup semi-final teams in 1982 and 1986.

That second Cup featured another meeting between

France and Brazil, in the quarter-finals in Guadalajara, Mexico, and France won 4-3 in a shootout after a 1-1 tie in extra time. Platini scored the French goal on a very special day.

"I have great memories," he said after the tears for Sastre

had stopped and his dark eyes flashing. "It was my birthday, and we beat Brazil. And I scored my last goal for the national team."

As co-presidents of France 98, Platini and Sastre secured government financial guarantees that helped bring the

tournament here, then organised an event that came off in true French form - cutting-edge technology stylish appearance, a little arrogance around the edge.

The former Netherlands coach Rinus Michels is recovering well from a heart attack

he suffered during the World Cup finals, Fifa said on Saturday. Keith Cooper, Fifa's spokesman, said the 70-year-old Michels, the mastermind of "Total Football" in the 1970s, had been transferred to hospital in Amsterdam following the heart attack on 5 July. "He

is doing very well and it is hoped that a second bypass operation will not be necessary," he said. Michels, known as "The General" and one of the most influential coaches of the past 25 years, had a heart bypass operation about 15 years ago.

Football's future is feminine says Fifa

SEPP BLATTER has praised the World Cup's referees and said they had contributed towards the success of the tournament.

Speaking on Saturday, the day after Pele made a fierce attack on the inconsistency of the referees in France, the president of football's world governing body, Fifa, said: "We will be analysing the refereeing after the World Cup. I have to say, all in all, that the performances of the referees have been correct."

"They protected the players against players who wanted to destroy the game. You cannot say they haven't contributed to the success of the tournament. They have," Blatter added.

Football was, he said, moving in the direction of having professional referees in professional leagues. Fifa made efforts at the finals to punish over-aggressive play, especially tackling from behind.

But Pele on Friday accused the referees of not acting in the same way towards certain offences, calling the standard of refereeing "the weak point" of the tournament.

The World Cup Organising

Committee chairman, Lennart Johansson, said Fifa needed to look at modern techniques, such as off-pitch video technology.

But he added: "We have to avoid the situation where referees are running to a screen to watch every time to see if a free-kick is right. Matches would last nine hours."

Fifa has always resisted the idea of using slow motion replays to change decisions during a game, though they can be used to help determine disciplinary measures later.

Johansson, who is also president of European governing body, Uefa, said he had been struck by the amount of shirt-pulling at the finals in France. The problem had to be solved.

"There has been offensive and fair football. But the grabbing of shirts, we have to do something about it."

Blatter also took the opportunity on Saturday to promise that next year's women's World Cup finals will be as successful as the men's tournament this year, and declared: "The future of football is feminine."

The third women's World Cup will be held in the United

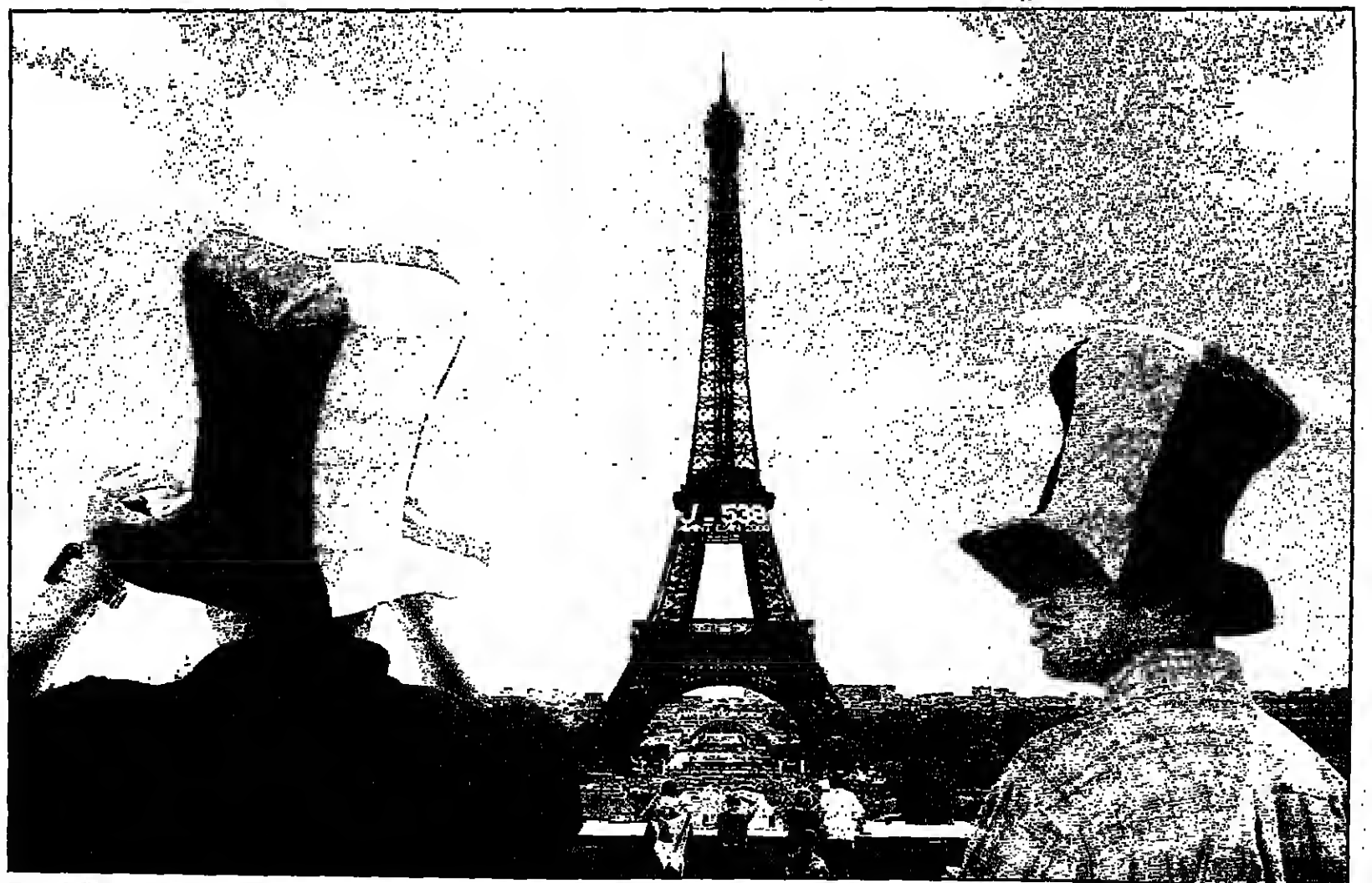
States in June 1999, featuring 16 teams in seven cities.

"More than 40 million girls and women playsoccer around the world and by 2000 it will be 50 million," Blatter said. "Their natural talents, elegance, dancing artistry and movement shows women's football at its best."

Alan Rothenberg, who was in charge when the United States hosted the 1994 World Cup, is back on board for the women's tournament. He said every game would be screened live for the first time.

"We are playing the games in the most important stadiums in the country," he said. "The opening match will be in the Giants Stadium in New Jersey and the final will be held in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California."

The United States won the first women's World Cup, held in China in 1991, beating Norway in the final. Four years later the Norwegians had their revenge, beating the Americans in the semi-finals en route to victory over Germany in the final. The United States qualifies automatically as hosts but, unlike in the men's competition, the holders, Norway, do not.



French fans survey the Eiffel tower as supporters crowd the streets of Paris ahead of the World Cup final

Andrew Winning/Reuters

Third place play-off faces the axe

FIFA ARE to consider the future of the World Cup's third place play-off amid suggestions that it should be scrapped.

The president of world football's governing body, Sepp Blatter, told a news conference on Saturday: "We're going to look into it to see if the third place match should be played at all. For this World Cup it had to be played but it is a subject we are often asked about. The European championships don't have one, although it is played everywhere else. We will have to see."

The third place play-off between the losing semi-finalists has been played at every tournament since 1934, apart from in 1950.

Some officials want to retain the fixture. Lennart Johansson, the president of the European authority, Uefa, and the head of

the French organising committee, Michel Platini, said they were strongly in favour.

"There is a world outside the big ones," Johansson said. "My country [Sweden] became No 3 in 1994 and were greeted at the airport by 240,000 people. It means a lot and I think we should keep it."

Platini said: "You may think I'm a specialist, France having played in two third-place matches... I agree that they should be played. There may be a lack of motivation for some players but it gives the other squad members a chance to play."

With Platini on the bench, France lost to Poland in 1982 and the former French captain said that Poland's Zbigniew Boniek, a one-time team-mate of his at Juventus, reminds him of it every time they meet.

The match seems to have most relevance these days to the goalscorers' charts. Croatia's Davor Suker, became top scorer on six goals, after his goal on Saturday.

In 1994, the whole Bulgarian team tried to get the ball to Hristo Stoichkov, who failed to score in a 4-0 defeat by Sweden and had to share the honour with Russia's Oleg Salenko.

In 1990, Salvatore Schillaci scored a penalty in Italy's 2-1 play-off win over England to top the charts. But pride of place goes to Just Fontaine, who banged in four in the 6-3 third-place win over West Germany in 1958 to reach a record total of 14. Sander Kocsis, of Hungary, sitting pretty on what is still the second highest total of 11, would no doubt have preferred the play-off not to have existed.

Another side who may have similar feelings after losing in the play-off against Croatia are the Netherlands, who returned home yesterday. Despite defeat they were proud of belonging to the world's top four soccer nations and optimistic about the future.

Hundreds of fans braved windy and wet weather at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport to welcome home the team. "We played very well," said midfielder Edgar Davids, one of the Netherlands' outstanding players at the tournament. "I think we can go to the top in two or three years."


In two years, the Netherlands co-hosts the 2000 European Championships with Belgium and will be among the hot favourites for the title. For the players, Saturday's play-off in Paris was one match

too many. For two years, coach Guus Hiddink worked to build a team capable of winning football's greatest prize but his players' dreams were shattered in a penalty shoot-out defeat to Brazil in the semi-final.

Hiddink added that the Dutch should have beaten Croatia but they squandered a handful of golden chances in front of goal. "It is a shame we could not win third place in a match we totally dominated," he said.

Despite the defeat, Hiddink pledged not to change the trademark attacking style of the Dutch - which leaves them vulnerable to counterattacking teams like Croatia.

"Our philosophy has impressed the world," Hiddink said. "We are a small country and we have a philosophy that we cannot change."



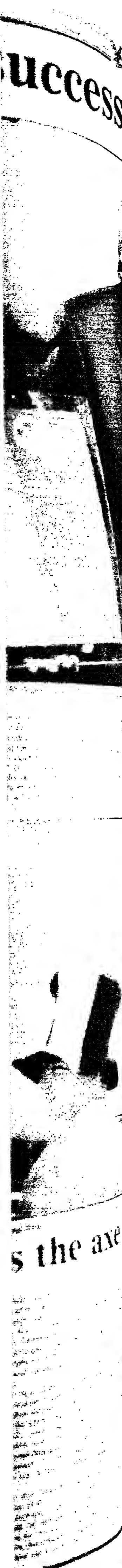
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THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO FRANCE 98

THE WORLD CUP: A BRIEF HISTORY

URUGUAY 1930
The Uruguayans trailed Argentina 2-1 at half-time, but second-half goals from Pedro Cea, Santos Iriarte and Castro won the first World Cup for the host nation.

ITALY 1934
Italy had been the clear favourites before the tournament and duly advanced to the final against Czechoslovakia. But the Czechs were stunned when the first half equaliser took the game into extra time and Angelo Schiavio scored the winner for Italy.

FRANCE 1938
Controversy surrounded the 1938 finals in France as war clouds gathered around Europe. The final saw the ball-playing Hungarians take on a physical Italy side who successfully retained the trophy, running out 4-2 winners. The Jules Rimet trophy would stay in Italy for 12 years due to the Second World War.

BRAZIL 1950
While England lost 1-0 to the United States, Brazil needed only a point from their match with Uruguay to be crowned world champions. But Uruguay bounced back with two late goals to shock the favourites.

SWITZERLAND 1954
A Hungarian side featuring the legendary Ferenc Puskas, Sandor Kocsis, Nandor Hidegkuti and Josef Bozsik were shocked by West Germany in the final. Hungary were 2-0 up in eight minutes through goals from Puskas and Czibor. But Morlock and Rahn quickly hauled the Germans level and Rahn claimed a second-half winner.

SWEDEN 1958
Brazil, inspired by the then-teenage sensation Pelé, became the first team to win the World Cup outside their own continent. Sweden provided the final opposition, but Pelé, Garrinha and Didl took centre stage in Stockholm. Pelé and Vava scored two apiece as the valiant home side fell apart and crashed to a 5-2 defeat.

CHILE 1962
Remembered for the 'Battle of Santiago' between Chile and Italy, the English referee Ken Austin sent off Italy's Ferrini in the opening minutes for a cynical foul. Then Chile's Leonel Sanchez, the son of a professional boxer, broke Huberto Maschio's nose with a flawless left hook seen by spectators and television audiences but missed by the referee and both linesmen. Brazil won an uninspired final, running out 3-1 winners over Czechoslovakia.

ENGLAND 1966
England's finest hour. A passionate and controversial World Cup ended with a controversial final. Hurst scored the first hat-trick in a World Cup final but the second of those goals is disputed to this day. The Swiss referee Dienst consulted the Russian linesman Bakhravov amidst furious German protests before allowing the famous goal to stand.

MEXICO 1970
Brazil's half against Italy's resolute defence provided an intriguing contrast of styles for the final, but Italy allowed the imaginative and adventurous Brazilians to come at them and paid the price. Pelé headed Brazil ahead from Rivelino's cross and, although Boninsegna equalised before the break, goals from Gerson, Jairzinho and Carlos Alberto, ensured an emphatic win.

WEST GERMANY 1974
The Dutch saw off the holders Brazil with goals from Neeskens and Cruyff to reach the final. In the final Neeskens fired the Dutch ahead but the Germans were level in the when Paul Breitner scored from the spot. Two minutes before the break Muller made it 2-1 with a clinical finish and although Holland pressed hard in the second half, Sepp Maier kept out a stinging Neeskens volley and the Germans held on.

ARGENTINA 1978
Argentina became the third host nation in the last four tournaments to lift the trophy when they beat the Netherlands 3-1. Kempes fired Argentina ahead seven minutes before the interval.

It seemed as though it would be the match winner until Dirk Nanninga, on as a substitute, equalised with eight minutes remaining. But Kempes restored Argentina's lead in the 105th minute, then laid on a third for Daniel Berti to wrap up a 3-1 victory.

SPAIN 1982
Paolo Rossi, returning from a two-year suspension following a bribery scandal, held the key to Italy's third World Cup triumph. He finished the tournament as leading goalscorer with six goals, including the opening goal in Italy's 3-1 final victory over West Germany. Further strikes from Marco Tardetti and Alessandro Altobelli ensured that 40-year-old goalkeeper Dino Zoff lifted the trophy.

MEXICO 1986
Diego Maradona inspired Argentina to victory, but England will not forget the infamous 'Hand of God' goal that set them on their way. In the final, Argentina were leading West Germany 2-0 with only 17 minutes to go when two goals in eight minutes from the Germans threatened to take the contest into extra-time. But Maradona turned goal-maker, setting up Jorge Buticagua for victory.

ITALY 1990
West Germany and Argentina conspired to provide a terrible final. West Germany took the lead five minutes from time when Rudi Voller was tripped by Robert Senis and Brehme made no mistake from the spot. Penalty misses by Stuart Pearce and Chris Waddle against West Germany in a dramatic semi-final denied England a place in the final.

USA 1994
Biegt chalked up a record fourth World Cup triumph and were worthy winners even though a penalty shoot-out settled their final showdown with Italy. The stage had seemed set for a potentially memorable final but ultimately the showpiece failed to live up to expectations.

THE FINAL STAGES

SECOND ROUND		QUARTER-FINALS		SEMI-FINALS		FINAL	
Brazil 4 Chile 1	Half-time: 3-0 Attendance: 48,500, Paris	Brazil 3 Denmark 2	Half-time: 2-1 Attendance: 35,500, Nantes	Netherlands 1 Brazil 1	Half-time: 0-0 Attendance: 54,000, Marseilles	Sunday 12 July 8pm St Denis Brazil v France	
Nigeria 1 Denmark 4	Half-time: 0-2 Attendance: 79,500, St Denis	Netherlands 2 Argentina 1	Half-time: 1-1 Attendance: 55,000, Marseilles	France 2 Croatia 1	Half-time: 0-0 Attendance: 76,000, St Denis		
Netherlands 2 Yugoslavia 1	Half-time: 1-0 Attendance: 36,500, Toulouse	Italy 0 France 0	Half-time: 0-0 Attendance: 77,000, St Denis	France 2 Croatia 1	Half-time: 0-0 Attendance: 76,000, St Denis		
Argentina 2 England 2	Half-time: 1-0 Attendance: 90,000, Marseilles	Germany 0 Croatia 3	Half-time: 0-1 Attendance: 39,100, Lyons	Netherlands 1 Croatia 2	Half-time: 1-1 Attendance: 45,500, Paris		
Italy 1 Norway 0	Half-time: 0-0 Attendance: 60,000, Lens	3rd/4th place play-off		Netherlands 1 Croatia 2			
France 1 Paraguay 0	Half-time: 0-0 Attendance: 35,000, Montpellier						
Germany 2 Mexico 1	Half-time: 0-0 Attendance: 34,700, Bordeaux						
Romania 0 Croatia 1	Half-time: 0-0 Attendance: 34,700, Bordeaux						

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

Netherlands 1 Croatia 2

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF: PARC DES PRINCES, PARIS, ATT. 45,500

Goal: Zenden 21
Yellow cards: 2 (Davids, Jonk)
Red card: 0
Corners: 8
Offsides: 3
Free-kicks (against): 17
Coach: Guus Hiddink

Goals: Prosinecki 13, Suker 36
Yellow cards: 4 (Juric, Stanic, Asanovic, Stanic)
Red cards: 0
Corners: 1
Offsides: 6
Free-kicks (against): 19
Coach: Miroslav Blazevic

GOALSCORERS	
SIX GOALS	Davor Suker (CRO)
FIVE GOALS	Christian Vieri (ITA) Gabriel Batistuta (ARG)
FOUR GOALS	Marcado Salas (CHI) Luis Hernandez (MEX) Ronaldinho (BRA)
THREE GOALS	Thierry Henry (FRA) Cesar Sampaio (BRA) Jorginho Kilmann (GER) Oliver Bierhoff (GER) Bebeto (BRA) Dennis Bergkamp (NED) Rivaldo (BRA)
TWO GOALS	Alan Shearer (ENG) Michael Owen (ENG) Roberto Baggio (ITA) Abdellatif Hadida (MAR) Salaheddine Bencherif (MAR) Shawn Bartlett (SA) Fernando Hierro (ESP) Francisco Morientes (ESP) Oliver (ESP)
ONE GOAL	Pierre Mankwa (CAM) Philip Cocu (NED) Ronald de Boer (NED) Slobodan Komljenovic (YUG) Ricardo Pelaez (MEX) Vornal Moldovan (ROM) Ariel Ortega (ARG) Theodoros Whitmore (JAM) Brian Laudrup (DEN) Patrick Kluever (NED) Robert Prosinecki (CRO) Liljan Thurman (CRO) John Collins (SCO) Craig Burley (SCO) Dai Eggen (NOR) Howard Flo (NOR) Toru Amari (JPN) Rajiv Mehta (IND) Mustafa Hadji (MAR) Luigi Di Biagio (ITA) Pierre Mankwa (CAM) Patrick Mankwa (CAM) Antonio Polster (AUT) Nica Vostic (AUT) Andreas Herzog (AUT) Jose Luis Sierra (CHI) Marc Rieper (DEN) Allan Nielsen (DEN) Michael Laudrup (DEN) Peter Molter (DEN) Khalid Al-Muwad (S. Arabia) Mohammed Al-Jabir (S. Arabia) Sayed Al-Owaidan (S. Arabia) Emanuel Pedit (FRA) Didier Deschamps (FRA) Zinedine Zidane (FRA) Laurent Blanc (FRA) Blanca Lizarazu (FRA) Bernard Dionisio (FRA) Park Wook (FRA) William Jackson (S. Africa) David Ngweni (S. Africa) Pierre Loko (S. Africa) Lucas Radebe (S. Africa) Allan Piri (S. Africa) Ousmane Portone (S. Africa) Miguel Angel Nadal (SP) Ivan Campo (SP) Zvonimir Boban (CRO) Slaven Bilic (CRO) Juan Veron (ARG) Diego Simeone (ARG) Marcelo Almeyda (ARG) Carlos Roa (ARG) David Seaman (ENG) Paul Ince (ENG) Alessandro Del Piero (ITA) Giuseppe Bergomi (ITA) Stefano Girotto (ITA) Albino (ITA) Roberto Carlos (BRA) Thomas Helweg (DEN) Soren Colting (DEN) Jaap Stam (NED) Jose Chamot (ARG) Nestor Sensi (ARG) Ariel Ortega (ARG) Dario Simek (CRO) Davor Suker (CRO) Zeljko Kalinic (CRO) Cesar Sampaio (BRA) Edgar Davids (NED) Pierre van Hooijdonk (NED) Clarence Seedorf (NED) Alonso Ananovic (CRO) Mario Stanic (CRO) Kresimir Novakovic (CRO) Igor Simic (CRO) Willy Jonk (NED)

RED AND YELLOW CARDS - GROUP STAGES	
RED - 16	GROUP A: Craig Burley (SCO), Raymond Ruffin (SCO), Lawrence Ezzam (CAM), Rigobert Song (CAM), Antonio Pfeiffer (AUT), Peter Schotter (2) (AUT), Wolfgang Felsinger (AUT), Ivica Vucic (AUT), GROUP C: Morten Wieghorst (DEN), Zinedine Zidane (FRA), Mohammed Al-Muwad (S. Arabia), GROUP D: Anasori Nankov (BUL), GROUP E: Ha Seok-Ju (S. Korea), Patrick Kluever (NED), Dennis Bergkamp (NED), Paul Parlo (MEX), A. us Ramirez (MEX), GROUP H: Darryl Powell (JAM).
YELLOW - 174	GROUP A: Cesar Sampaio (2) (BRA), Aldair (BRA), Junior Balao (BRA), Darren Jackson (2) (SCO), Gordon Duff (SCO), Kevin Gallacher (SCO), Said Chiba (2) (MAR), Youssef Chippo (MAR), Abdellatif Hadida (MAR), Kjetil Rekdal (NOR), Henning Berg (NOR), Erik Mykland (NOR), Syndee Leonardson (NOR), GROUP B: Angelo Di Lio (ITA), Alessandro Costacurta (ITA), Luigi Di Biagio (ITA), Fabio Cammarano (ITA), Paolo Maldini (ITA), Nelson Parraguez (2) (CHI), Clarence Amia (CHI), Francisco Rojas (2) (CHI), Moises Villarroel (2) (CHI), Fabian Enay (CHI), Marcelo Salas (CHI), Ivan Zamorano (CHI), Miguel Ramirez (CHI), Samuel Ipusa (CAM), Pierre Mankwa (CAM), Didier Angbaud (CAM), Rigobert Song (2) (CAM), Antonio Pfeiffer (AUT), Peter Schotter (2) (AUT), Wolfgang Felsinger (AUT), Ivica Vucic (AUT), GROUP C: Morten Wieghorst (DEN), Marc Rieper (DEN), Allan Nielsen (DEN), Michael Schjoberg (DEN), Jes Hogg (DEN), Peter Schmelzer (DEN), Soren Colting (DEN), Selg Tofing (DEN), Khalid Al-Muwad (S. Arabia), Mohammed Al-Jabir (S. Arabia), Sayed Al-Owaidan (S. Arabia), Emmanuel Pedit (FRA), Didier Deschamps (FRA), Zinedine Zidane (FRA), Laurent Blanc (FRA), Blanca Lizarazu (FRA), Bernard Dionisio (FRA), Park Wook (FRA), William Jackson (S. Africa), David Ngweni (S. Africa), Pierre Loko (S. Africa), Lucas Radebe (S. Africa), Allan Piri (S. Africa), Ousmane Portone (S. Africa), Miguel Angel Nadal (SP), Ivan Campo (SP), Zvonimir Boban (CRO), Slaven Bilic (CRO), Juan Veron (ARG), Diego Simeone (ARG), Marcelo Almeyda (ARG), Carlos Roa (ARG), David Seaman (ENG), Paul Ince (ENG), Alessandro Del Piero (ITA), Giuseppe Bergomi (ITA), Stefano Girotto (ITA), Albino (ITA), Roberto Carlos (BRA), Thomas Helweg (DEN), Soren Colting (DEN), Jaap Stam (NED), Jose Chamot (ARG), Nestor Sensi (ARG), Ariel Ortega (ARG), Dario Simek (CRO), Davor Suker (CRO), Zeljko Kalinic (CRO), Cesar Sampaio (BRA), Edgar Davids (NED), Pierre van Hooijdonk (NED), Clarence Seedorf (NED), Alonso Ananovic (CRO), Mario Stanic (CRO), Kresimir Novakovic (CRO), Igor Simic (CRO), Willy Jonk (NED).

THE GROUP STAGES	
GROUP A	GROUP B
GROUP C	GROUP D
GROUP E	GROUP F
GROUP G	GROUP H

STATISTICS OF THE TOURNAMENT	
MOST GOALS IN A MATCH	Seven (Spain v Bulgaria)
MOST GOALS BY A TEAM	Six (Spain v Bulgaria)
WIDEST WINNING MARGIN	Five (Spain v Bulgaria)
ONLY FIVE MATCHES FINISHED GOALLESS AFTER 90 MINUTES	FASTEST GOAL
53 seconds (Cesar Sampaio)	BEST INDIVIDUAL GOAL-SCORING PERFORMANCES
Three: Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina v Jamaica), Two: Ronaldo (Brazil v Morocco)	AND THE REFEREE'S WAVED PLAY ON
P. Un-Prasert (Thailand) three yellow in two games; R. Wojcik (Poland) two yellow in one game; A. Tejada Nartega (Peru) two yellow in one game.	MOST CORNERS
France* (64 in seven games).	MOST FOULS COMMITTED
Croatia (107 fouls and 15 bookings); Iran and Japan (averaged 23 fouls a game).	LEAST FOULS COMMITTED
Saudi Arabia (34 fouls in three games); Mexico (48 fouls in four games).	MOST RED CARDS
Cameroon (three red cards in three matches).	MOST TOTAL SHOTS ON GOAL
France* (150).	LEAST TOTAL SHOTS ON GOAL
Belgium (22).	ONLY 37 OF CROATIA'S 93 SHOTS HIT THE TARGET
OLDEST PLAYER IN THE TOURNAMENT	Jim Leighton (Scotland), 39.
YOUNGEST PLAYER IN THE TOURNAMENT	Samuel Eto'o (Cameroon), 17.
HIGHEST ATTENDANCE	80,000 (St Denis matches).
COMEBACK KINGS	Germany (v Yugoslavia); Mexico (v Belgium); Mexico (v Netherlands). All three came back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2.
ENGLAND AND JAPAN THE ONLY SIDES REPRESENTED BY PLAYERS DRAWN EXCLUSIVELY FROM THEIR OWN LEAGUES.	DEFIED BY THE WOODWORK
United States (hit the post four times in all).	*Not including the final.



SPORT



STEELS STEALS TOUR WIN P24 • PRICHARD'S LORD'S WIN P22

Schumacher defies the rain

MOTOR RACING

BY DERICK ALLSOP
at Silverstone

IT HAS been a long time coming and when it finally arrived it was wrapped in the type of controversy that has enveloped his entire career. Michael Schumacher's first win in the British Grand Prix was accomplished amid confusion and rancour as he sat in his car in the pits.

By the time Mika Hakkinen, the world championship leader, had taken the flag out on the circuit, Schumacher was deemed to have served his penalty for an early offence. Schumacher completed the 60th and last lap in the pit lane, 22.4 seconds ahead of Hakkinen. Ten seconds were added to the German's time, giving him victory by an official margin of 12.4 seconds.

Behind that clinical calculation, however, was universal bewilderment. Even Schumacher, who left the pit lane after going through the motions of a conventional stop and go penalty, returned to base uncertain of his fate. Only when told by his team did he allow himself to celebrate his maiden success here at the seventh attempt.

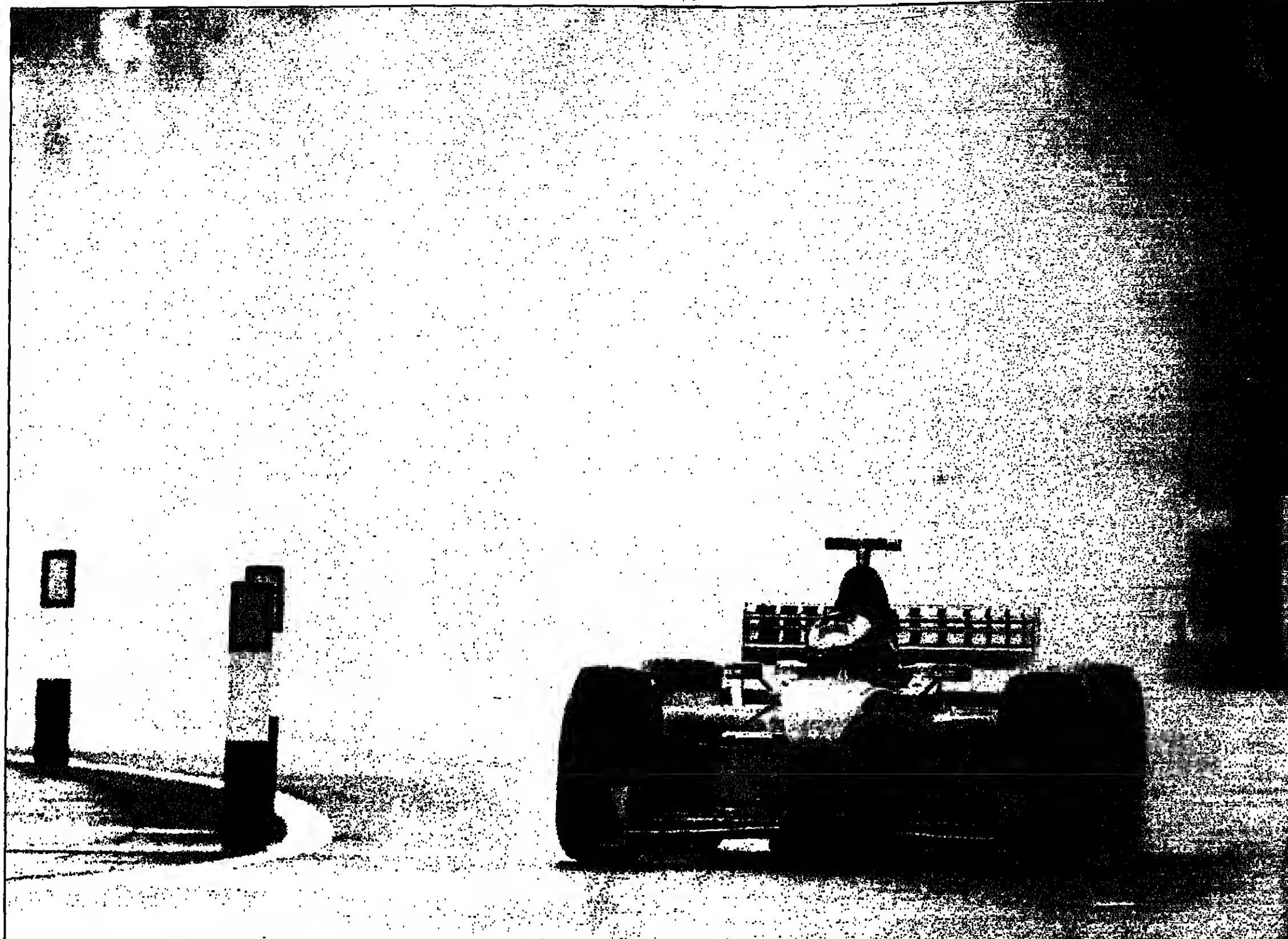
Hakkinen, who crossed the line believing he had won, now slumped in the cockpit of his McLaren-Mercedes, stunned by the news. He managed a dignified but limp handshake for his adversary.

David Coulthard's demise in the torrential rain effectively reduces the championship to a two-man contest. With seven races remaining, Hakkinen is just two points ahead of the Ferrari driver. Coulthard is a further 24 points adrift, just one point in front of Eddie Irvine, third yesterday in the other Ferrari.

Hakkinen's increasingly vulnerable position heightened the tension and sense of injustice at McLaren, who lodged a protest. More than three and a half hours later the protest was rejected and the time penalty rescinded on the grounds that notice to Ferrari was not given within the stipulated period. Normally a driver serves a 10-second penalty stationary in the pits, which in reality costs him up to half a minute. But if it is imposed within three laps of the end of the race, the stewards may simply add 10 seconds to his time.

This was the course followed yesterday, but the stewards did not make it clear when the offence - overtaking under a yellow warning flag, which is not permitted - took place. In some quarters this was interpreted as further evidence of favouritism towards Ferrari.

Schumacher, who was disqualified after ignoring a black flag here in 1994, was given the opportunity to challenge Hakkinen when the safety car was



Michael Schumacher drives through the rain to victory at Silverstone yesterday. The German is now just two points behind Mika Hakkinen, the championship leader. *Shawn Baldwin/Rueters*

sent out on to a treacherous circuit. 16 laps from the end, all but wiping out the Finn's 43-second advantage.

An earlier, spectacular spin had damaged the McLaren and Hakkinen feared the worst as they were unleashed again, five laps later. The Ferrari closed in and Hakkinen, under pressure, went off at Becketts. Again he steered back on to the track but now his task was to fend off Irvine. The Ulsterman could not sustain his attack and Ferrari were denied a second successive clean sweep.

Ironically, the sun shone at the end, and the cynics concluded God had once more cast his light on the Italian team. Schumacher admitted he had been beaten up to the introduction of the safety car, but ultimately he was able to keep his car on the circuit when others could not.

The Benetton pair, Alexander Wurz and Giancarlo Fisichella, were fourth and fifth respectively. Ralf Schumacher claimed Jordan's first point of the season with an heroic drive from the back of the field, and Jacques Villeneuve was

seventh and last of the finishers in his Williams.

Michael Schumacher said: "I was not quick enough on my first two sets of tyres. The two guys in front were just faster. I also slowed down because it was dangerous and I was happy when the safety car came out."

"I was able to stay with Mika and put on some pressure and luck for me I was able to win the race. But when I came in I did not really know what was happening. I had problems with my radio and was speaking to Eddie to get directions through

him. I thought maybe I had a fuel problem."

"But then I was told I had won the race. This will stop the questions about my performances at Silverstone and it's nice to win here at last. It's a good feeling because this is not the result we expected here."

Hakkinen had held Coulthard at bay in the early phase of the race and the Scot, in turn, pulled away from Schumacher, only to fall by the wayside. Hakkinen's victory seemed secure, especially after surviving a spin on lap 42. Such was the

momentum of his car across the grass and gravel he actually increased his lead over Schumacher. The arrival of the safety car changed everything.

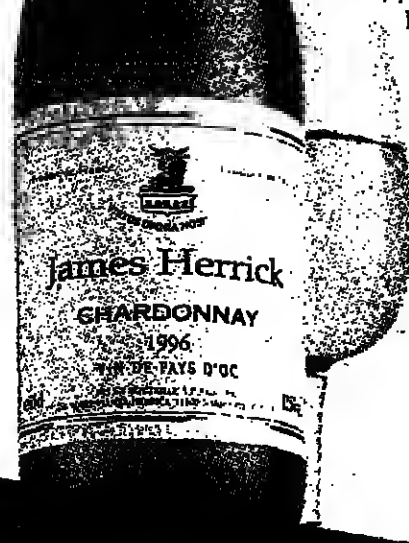
"I'm extremely disappointed," he said. "My car was pretty knackered after going off at Bridge and I knew I would not be able to keep the lead after the safety car had been out."

Irvine, who recovered from a sloppy start, accused Damon Hill of checking his progress by weaving in front of him. "But he got his punishment when he went off," the Ulsterman said.

11 PAGES OF SPORT
BEGIN ON PAGE 18

If you like the sound of the South of France you'll love the taste.

A faraway look comes into people's eyes when mention is made of the South of France. For most, it is the capital of chic: a sun-kissed playground of exotic resorts and spectacular scenery studded with ancient vineyards - among them, La Motte, La Bouladière and Les Garrigues de Truilhas, where James Herrick makes the definitive Midi Chardonnay. Rich, stylish and full of taste; fresh, yet fruity and long-finish. And amazingly inexpensive. Why settle for vin ordinaire when you can afford the glorious South?



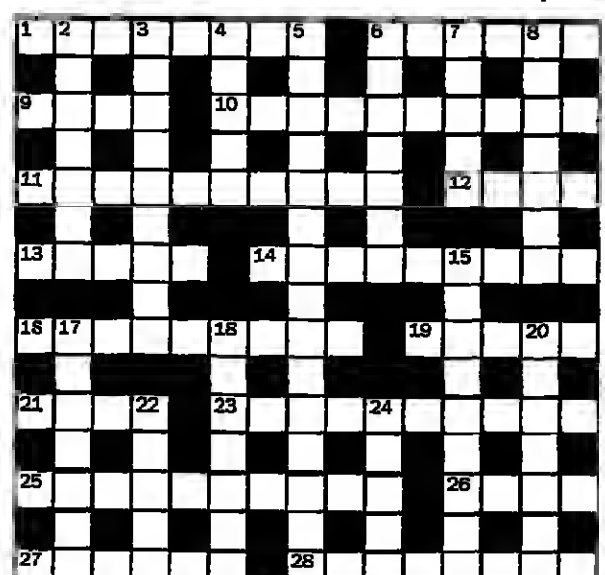
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THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3661, Monday 13 July

By Fortis



- ACROSS**
- Seem capable of gaining respect (4,2,2)
 - Covering crib with a new lining (6)
 - Mob's gathered, by the sound of it (4)
 - Not even in front yet ends up being first (10)
 - Put on leash but broke free - blooming thing! (5,5)
 - Catch one that gets a hammering (4)

- Point and express disapproval about right show off (5)
- Does it reflect the passage of time? (4-5)
- He produces documents for one on board, we hear (9)
- Compete with present charge (3,2)
- Games featured in commercial took off (4)
- Assigned to event now and then (2,8)

- Free leaflet about song bird (10)
- Related to a tailless species (4)
- Continue to check out academic (6)
- Roguish confederate soldier's caught before (8)

- DOWN**
- Old place I turned up in is set to expand (4,3)
 - Minor matter to fill in direction - it's easy (4,5)
 - Go for best piano (5)
 - At noon, we hear Roy's got out, somehow (3,2,7)
 - Many occupying naval vessel's mess (7)
 - Isn't any longer a source of fabric (5)
 - Assumption is that political leader's negligent (7)
 - French and Scottish guys go by a US state (8)
 - About to beat and rout the enemy (7)
 - Hold up involving Middle eastern navy contract (7)
 - American joining party is not at all gregarious (7)
 - Relief over receiving court pronouncements (5)
 - Don't start to ridicule second foot problem (5)

Hill hopes for turning point

IF YESTERDAY'S British Grand Prix proves Damon Hill's last at Silverstone he will be keen to banish the memory. The former world champion's miserable and pointless season continued as he lost control on lap 14 in his Jordan car. It meant there would be no repeat of last season's sixth-place finish achieved for Arrows on his home circuit.

Honest as ever, Hill blamed himself for the error which meant he spun out of contention when well placed. He admitted: "It was pathetic really. I was trying to find a way past a backmarker when I lost the car and spun. It stalled almost at once, and that was it for me - and I'm very annoyed with myself at how it happened. I had such a disappointing race and feel so bad about spinning off. I just watched the tantalising end from the pit wall."

It meant Hill was left to view the dramas of the race that followed before Michael Schumacher secured victory, while his younger brother Ralf finished sixth for Jordan.

For Hill, his team-mate Schumacher's success lifted his mood on an otherwise bleak afternoon, and he hopes it will

signal an upturn in his own fortunes.

He added: "Thanks to what happened with Ralf I can come away with some happy feelings now the team have their first point. It is fantastic for everyone, and hopefully this will be the turning point in the team's luck. On a personal note I'm hugely disappointed not to have performed as I hoped and feel very sad not to have given my fans a good result."

Hill insists it remains "too early" to reflect upon his future plans, but with Jordan improving he may yet stay and, failing that, British American Racing have expressed an interest.

At least Hill's Jordan colleague Schumacher boosted the team's morale by ensuring they broke their duck for the season. Despite starting the race one place off the back of the grid, he coped well with the conditions to make his point.

He said: "When the rain came we thought it would be our chance. We've waited so long for it that sixth felt like a win today."

Coulthard under the weather: race details, page 23

MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

'Of course I know it's vulgar'

The ministry, the wife and four of the five mistresses have gone. But he still has his Rolex, his chauffeur-driven Jag, his eyes set on power and a big job in haulage to tide him over. Oh yes, Steven Norris is a very flash trucker

Steven Norris - the former Tory transport minister who stood down at the last election because "I needed to make some money, frankly" - is now head of something called the Road Haulage Association. This has its headquarters in a modern, squat office block in Weybridge, Surrey. It is just as scintillating on the inside as it is on the outside. Lots of framed photographs of lorries. A reception area filled with thoroughly resistible leaflets with titles like "Careless Torque Costs Lives" and "The NEC/M6 Junction Improvement Work". I am just set to doze when Mr Norris comes down to collect me. He is a large man with bloodhound dewlaps, a prosperous belly and a big chunk of gold Rolex on a big chunk of wrist. I perk up sufficiently to admire it. "Of course, I know it's vulgar," he says happily, "but I'm exactly the sort of flash bastard these things were designed for."

I ask him if he'd like to play swaps, and offer him my Swatch. "I think not," he says. Come on, I say, my Swatch must have a resale value of at least 17p. "I think not," he repeats. I suspect he's a man who only likes the good things in life. Into some kind of boardroom. More framed pictures of lorries. A paperweight that's a bit of Euro-tunnel in a blob of clear plastic. Do you find trucks interesting, Mr Norris? "Oh yes. Love them. Dirty, smelly and noisy, just like me." His humour is sometimes not entirely sophisticated. "I've lost my pager," he later moans. "I miss it terribly. The most fun I ever get these days, when it's on 'vibrate'." I ask if he misses politics. He insists not. Still, I say, you're going to put yourself up for Mayor of London, aren't you? "Well, people certainly seem to want me to," he replies. "They say they need an ABA candidate."

Sorry? "ANYONE BUT ARCHER!" The phone goes. It's someone from breakfast television. Will he come on first thing in the morning to discuss something or other? "Oh, I'll miss my breakie. I love my breakie. But why not?" Does he miss the spotlight then? Again, he insists not. "I was only ever an accidental wanderer into the spotlight." However, as far as accidental wanderings go, his was an especially good and entertaining one.

It was, perhaps, a defining moment in John Major's "back to basics" government when, in October 1993, it was revealed that Steven Norris, a married man, had not one mistress, or even two or three or four, but five. Were you in some kind of test group for Viagra, Steven? "I don't think that would be a wise advert for me to contemplate," he replies. In fact, his sex life at that time was not quite as Byzantine in its complexity as originally thought. It was not as if he was madly racing between - if you count his wife - six beds. It was more like a relay race, with one woman passing on the baton to the next, but sometimes not relinquishing it at the right moment because Steven had not quite got round to telling her the time had come. This is not something he especially wishes to discuss now. "As I have always said, let he who is without sin cast the first stone. I don't enquire and won't be enquired of." He then adds: "Sorry, didn't mean to snap," and gives my knee a quick squeeze. I immediately shoot up to admire a photograph of an articulated something being loaded up in some kind of loading bay. Fascinating, I say. He says, "Yes, it's a fascinating business, freight. People don't want lorries hurtling down their roads but still expect their Tesco to stock seven kinds of lettuce." I feel a lot safer once we get on to lettuce.

It is, yes, quite hard to understand his astonishing success on the ladies front. Physically, he is not what you'd call an Almighty Love God. Indeed, if there were a spectrum of sexual attractiveness which, say, went from Dr Ross in ER at one end to Roy Hattersley the other, he would be very much at the Hattersley end. He might, even, overshoot Hattersley and become the end itself. Thankfully, he has no pretensions otherwise. "My mother always said to me, 'Son,



He's a Jag man, himself, but he's keen on trucks: 'Oh yes. Love them. Dirty, smelly and noisy, just like me' William Webster

you're never going to be a good-looker, so be a good talker." I am laughably bad-looking, don't you think? "I try to be positive. You still have lots of your own hair, I say. "Yes. And everything else is still mine, too." You might even have lost a bit of weight, I add. "I just buy bigger suits," he replies.

He does have a kind of bumptious, easy charm. I imagine if you were a woman of a certain age who wanted to hear certain things, he would be able to say them quite convincingly, while being convinced himself. He may not be the most emotionally mature of men. He may even be quite weak. He describes himself as "highly persuadable". He cries easily. "Almost anything will set me off. The right result in football. The wrong result in football. A movie. Cheap music. A flower. A sunset. A child." He is not unintelligent. But he may be moved to say things which, on reflection, he ultimately decides he may not have meant at all. Certainly, he was always doing this as a politician. There was, that famous incident when, in front of the commons select committee on the environment, he referred to the "dreadful human beings" you have to sit next to on trains. And he is still doing it.

Indeed, the first time we chat is in fact on the phone, where I chastise him for not being especially effective as a transport minister, never having come up with a policy to deal with those very old men in tweed caps who sit low in the driving seat and give way to oncoming traffic, even on the M6. THEY DO MORE TO HOLD UP TRAFFIC IN THIS COUNTRY THAN ANYTHING ELSE! "Yes! Yes! I know what you mean," exclaims Mr Norris joyously. "And they're even worse when they're smoking pipes." Yes!, I cry. "Or have a little old wife in the seat next to them." Yes! What's to be done?

"Kill them!" he says. Well... er... I stutter. But he goes on. "There must be a clean way of doing it. A clinical way that doesn't hurt too much... ha ha!" He has had to do some serious back-peddling in his time. He does some more almost as soon as we meet. "I'm not an unkind man. I love old men in tweed caps, actually. GOD BLESS THEM ALL!"

For the moment, he does seem to have stopped pedalling on the women front. Now 53, he has settled down with one of his mistresses, the young common researcher Emma Courtney, by whom he now has a seven-week-old son, Harry. Yes, Steven can do nappies. He has two much older sons by his wife, Vicky. "I could do the towelling ones with pins. These new ones are a doddle." Are you getting any sleep, Steven? "I am. Yes." Would you say you were a considerable man? "I try to be, but know I'm selfish on occasion." What would you say was your most irritating habit? "Oh, I think I'm the Lord Mayor's horse, in that I prance about in front, while

leaving a terrible mess behind." No, he never gets depressed. It is just not in his nature, he says. "My one big worry is that I don't worry enough. I've had ups and downs. But if I ever lost everything, I'd probably be as well off as when I was born. If you have come from nothing and are healthy, you don't really care where you go."

He was born in Liverpool, to Eileen and John Norris. His father was a clerk at the local mill. Home was a two-up, two-down with a flagstone yard and an outside toilet "with the luxury of a wooden seat to give less of a shock on a bleak winter morning". His earliest memory is of Richard, his younger brother coming along when he was three. He wasn't too happy about this. "I'd have preferred an engine." He may have had quite an ego even then.

He was educated at the Liverpool Institute for Boys, two years behind Paul McCartney, with whom he once shared a bill in the school production of *St Joan*. "I was a page. Paul was a monk." At that time, Edwin Currie was a schoolgirl at the corresponding Institute for Girls. He took her to the pictures once or twice, and might have had a brief fumble under her blouse. Oh Steven, I cry, how could you? "Yes. Hmm. The larger the veil drawn over that the better, I think." He does not like Edwin any more. "I won't point to her brashness or lack of taste, because that would be calling the kettle black, but I don't like the way she uses people." He adds that when she was a health minister, he and some other Tories started a "Currie Club" which meant they went out regularly to stuff themselves with roast beef and Yorkshire pudding and spotted dick and custard "just to spite her".

He is very clear about whom he likes and whom he doesn't. He does not like Michael Heseltine. "He was always rude to new members when he didn't need them." He didn't like Margaret Thatcher, possibly because she didn't especially like him. "She only really likes toffs, and I wasn't toff enough." He likes John Redwood - "so much nicer in person, although impossible to sell in presentation terms". He admires New Labour - "well, they've stolen our clothes" - and especially David Blunkett. "I don't agree with a word he says, but he's overcome handicap to achieve great things." Plus, he adds, being blind isn't all bad because "you can play golf at night and beat almost anybody". Taste, as he says, is not one of his strong points.

He won an exhibition to Oxford, to study PPE, but swapped to law the moment he arrived. He couldn't get on with the first two books on the reading list. "One was Susan Stepping's *Introduction to Logic* which I couldn't make head or tail of, and the other was Samuelson's *Economic Theory*, which bored me witless." Intellectually, he may be the most stupendously lazy person I've ever met. When he is not working he likes to watch telly "and there is no programme to which I will not sink". He likes *Gladiators* ("very good"), *You've Been Framed* ("excellent"), Continued on page 8



THE DEBORAH ROSS INTERVIEW

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'Today' team are yesterday's men

I WAS at a dinner for important media people the other night. Do you ever find yourself at these affairs? You can always tell important media people. They work in the media and sound important. And they all know how the BBC should really be run. I never learn much from them, but I try to enlighten them as much as possible. Especially about the way the BBC should be run.

Eventually, of course, the subject of Radio 4's *Today* programme came up.

"Why has it moved?" said a man called Jim, who owned a TV company or at least behaved as if he did. "Why has it moved from its traditional quarters in Broadcasting House out to the wilds of the White City? The people who present the programme keep mentioning it, as if it were really important. Well, here

City, so perhaps they think that making a programme there is also cheaper."

They sat there, talking about it as if it were some episode in *The Archers*. I have often noticed that media people treat life as if it were a soap opera: everything that happens must have a reason, which will be explained in a coming episode.

"I think John Humphrys is right to be worried about the move," said ginger beard. "Politicians and ministers may have flocked to BH, but they're not going to trek out to White City at 7am."

"And that," I said, "is precisely why they're doing it." Everyone went silent. All eyes turned to me. I always enjoy that moment.

"They're trying to make it more difficult for public figures to get out there?" said ginger beard.

"Sure," I said. "Research shows that more people switch off during those interviews than at any other time. So they get rid of them."

"But the interviews with ministers and top figures are the top feature of the programme!" said somebody.

"Rubbish," I said. "It's why politicians like *Today*, and why the presenters like it, but it's not why anyone else likes it. People are bored silly with party politics. People switch

on to *Today* to hear the weather, and the sport, and "What the Papers Say", and the news headlines, and that's about it. Even the little five-minute documentary features

about traffic schemes in Newcastle or potato-growing in Hyde Park are more popular than Jim Naughtie meeting Jack Straw over three rounds. So they've shifted the operation

hoping that politicians will no longer make the trek."

There was a silence.

"And here's another thing," I said. "So far, it's only the heavyweights who have gone out to the White City. They've left the sports guys behind at BH. At the moment they're doing the politics from White City and sport from BH. And weather from somewhere else. Why?"

"More silence."

"Because all the guys who have gone to the White City are going to be dropped, and the programme will continue from BH with the sports guys as a nucleus. A brand new *Today* programme with brand new people, and no politics. Meanwhile, the Naughties and the Macgregors and the Humphrys will continue their talking into the microphone at the White City, unaware that none of it is being broadcast!"

More silence.

"Well, maybe James Naughtie is aware of it. That's why he's building a lateral career in book programmes and opera talks."

More silence.

"Or perhaps it was to obey some whim of the accountants," said Jim. "Rents and rates are lower in the White



MILES KINGTON
reveals the culture of deceit and intrigue that pervades the BBC

we are in our new studios in White City, which are a lovely blue," they say.

"I'll tell you what they remind me of," said a woman who used to be tipped to be the next DG. "They remind me of those hostages on video who say things like 'They are treating me very well' when what they really mean is 'They are treating me abominably, but if I say so, the man outside camera range will shoot me.'"

"So what you mean," I said, "is that what Jim Naughtie and John Humphrys really mean is, 'Help! - we are prisoners in a small studio in Hemel Hempstead! Rescue us!'"

"N-o-o-o," said the woman. "I just want to know why they have been moved. Who is being punished?"

"What makes you think someone is being punished?"

"Oh, come on!" said the woman. "Almost every promotion or move that takes place at the BBC is designed to put someone else's nose out of joint."

"I thought the only reason they moved the *Today* programme out of dear old Broadcasting House," said a man wearing either a ginger beard or a ginger bow-tie, "was to convert the old studios into a new dining-room for BBC managers."

"Or perhaps it was to obey some whim of the accountants," said Jim. "Rents and rates are lower in the White

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In the first of this week's series of photographs of life at Battersea Dogs Home, London, a nervous mongrel arrives at the home

Tom Pilston

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk
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Orangemen's choice

Sir: Is it not time for the Government to stop the Orange Order and its supporters from living in cloud-cuckoo land and spell out in words of one syllable the only alternative to full acceptance of the Good Friday agreement? British people will never tolerate a return to a Protestant-dominated but British-protected state of six counties. If the agreement is irretrievably undermined by the Orange Order then Britain can only withdraw - the Union, the Army, representation at Westminster, and financial subsidy - leaving Northern Ireland to care for itself.

Before doing so, however, a plebiscite will have to be held in each constituency to determine whether it prefers to stay in the north or to join the Republic. If that should be done, south Down, south Armagh, south Tyrone, Fermanagh, western Derry and west Belfast would all, almost certainly, join the Republic. How many people, even among the leaders of the Orange Order, would wish to live in the rump that remained?

ADRIAN HASTINGS
Leeds

Sir: Fergal Keane ("Fear, bigotry and hope ...", 11 July) comments that the Protestant men, women and children at Drumcree are living in the fear of republican prisoners being freed and of republican gunmen sitting in their government. They had no such fear in the previous three years, but acted in just the same manner.

One of the Orangemen, commenting on the RUC and the Army confronting them, said he is now not British but an Ulsterman. He always was. Nowhere else in the United Kingdom would such childish nonsense take place.

Northern Ireland has become like a disruptive family member. After many calls for restraint, they still persist in playing the stereo to all hours, slamming doors and breaking crockery. Eventually, enough is enough, and you have to evict them from your house. It seems time that the other members of the UK family were allowed a referendum on whether this family member has outstayed its welcome.

JOHN HALL
Dawley, Shropshire

Sir: Of course there is a right to walk - not march - along the Garvaghy road. But the authorities are fully entitled to put conditions on the exercise of that right.

Suitable conditions for the Orange Order to walk the route would include that members confirm their adherence to the Declaration of an Orangeman, in particular this passage: "I do solemnly and voluntarily declare that I will be faithful to Her Majesty the Queen, and that I will to the utmost of my power support and maintain the laws and constitution of the United Kingdom.... I declare that I will, as far as in my power lies, assist the magistrates and civil authorities of these kingdoms in the lawful execution of their official duties when called upon."

HARVEY R COLE
Winchester

Sir: The suggestion by Jonathan Newcombe (letter, 8 June) to let both loyalist and nationalist factions march along the same road tries to be helpful but misses the point. Tolerance of opposing views does not come into it. The Orangemen couldn't care less whether the Roman Catholic population march along their "own" road, but they do care that they themselves will march along the road of the "others".

REG HEMS
Cockfosters, Hertfordshire

Sir: Britain has a tradition of welcoming diverse cultures to its shores, yet it seems to have a problem in supporting its indigenous people in Northern Ireland having a perfectly peaceful march down the Garvaghy Road.

Why would the Roman Catholic or nationalist community not just shut their doors and windows (or go to work, if work they have) while the march processes? Surely in a country as free as the UK they could be more tolerant.

M S RATKOVIC
London W11

Sir: In response to the Orangemen's threat to bring Ulster to a halt can I say two words to them? No surrender!

JONATHAN DUMBELL
London E15

Sir: Harry Barnes MP (Letters, 11 July) draws attention to the rarity of integration in primary and secondary schooling in Northern Ireland, but there are historical reasons explaining, and even excusing, the damagingly high level of segregation.

All the more deplorable therefore is the intention of the Queen's University of Belfast to close the highly competent Semitic Studies Section of its School of Greek, Roman and Semitic Studies. Not only will the closure do nothing to improve the University's rating in the next, intellectually ludicrous, Research Assessment Exercise, due in 2001 but also the Semitic Studies Section is the only non-denominational centre of biblical studies in Northern Ireland.

Professor GEORGE HUNLEY
School of Classics
University of Dublin

Roots of anorexia

Sir: While I applaud the British Medical Association's intended campaign against images of emaciated women in the media as a measure to reduce the incidence of anorexia in young women, I believe it to be an oversimplification of the issue and therefore question its likely efficacy ("Buxom wenches get BMA blessing", 9 July).

Eating disorders are the symptom of the problem, not the problem itself. Repressed feelings of hurt, grief, anger, fear need to be felt for true healing to take place and this is a long and painful process requiring skilled intervention. The eating disorder is a block for the sufferer from the painful feelings.

My own such feelings largely stem from the traumatic event of adoption, reinforced by further

experiences of rejection through childhood. I had anorexia from age 12 to 14 and my eating was chaotic for 10 further years. I found my "cure" in six years of one-to-one Gestalt psychotherapy and similar group therapy, which I started at the age of 25. I feel privileged to have had the good luck to have come across it. I have learnt the simple healing cure of tears.

Western culture seems to be so scared of raw, tumultuous expression of emotion. The reason, I believe, we struggle with finding the causes and cures for horrifying "disorders" like anorexia is because of this "norm" of deadening our feelings.

I am not surprised Dr Ian Bogle found his "medical training to be no use" in finding an explanation for his daughter's anorexia. Doctors receive scant or no training in the emotional cause and cure of "disorders". In contrast, a good therapist needs to delve into their own emotional backlog to release their own repressed feelings.

Images of thinness implying happiness, I concede, are part of the anorexia equation. I pored over such images of thin, glamorous women in my pre-teen years. To look like that, I felt, would be my salvation, my survival mechanism. The real survival mechanism, of course, was the uncanalised starvation has to further deepen difficult feelings, desperately trying to rise to the surface and find an outlet.

Has the BMA considered the possibility that the image of the "buxom wench" that it is suggesting as a replacement could just as easily promote an upsurge in compulsive and binge eating? Different symptom. Same causes.

LISA WHITTLE
London W1

Cures for crime

Sir: It is to be hoped that *The Independent* will continue to promote the debate proposed by Andrew Coyle (Sociological Notes, 4 July) and Gary Slapper (letter, 6 July) about the place of punishment in our society.

There are (at least) three central questions to be answered: What is to be done to reduce the levels of offending? What is to be done on behalf of all the victims of crimes? What is to be done with convicted offenders? A sound start to any review of the place of punishment would be to recognise that these three questions - all difficult and all important - are not the same question and that the answer to any one of them has no more than a limited bearing on the other two.

Our failure to disentangle these questions or to try to talk about them at the same time has confused discussion. For instance, the penal system (what is done with convicted offenders) has a specific but very limited contribution to make to managing levels of crime. The rights of victims go beyond punishment and we need to find ways of expressing compassion for victims without merely translating it into increased punitiveness towards offenders.

The review will founder unless

these questions are recognised as three rather than one.

ROBERT CANTON
Special Lecturer in Criminology
University of Nottingham

Sir: The problem of repeated burglary of the same victim, highlighted in your report of research carried out by Professor Ken Pease in West Yorkshire, is familiar to the police and probation service in that county ("Tricks of burglars' trade revealed", 10 July).

One solution inspired by the work of Professor Pease is an initiative set up jointly by West Yorkshire probation service, West Yorkshire police, and Wakefield council's housing service. Following a burglary at a council house, police officers visit the house and identify any weaknesses in security. With the householder's agreement, additional door and window locks may then be fitted to the property by carefully selected offenders serving community service orders, under the strict supervision of the probation service.

Since any second burglary is likely to occur within six weeks after the first, the services aim to visit and secure the premises within that time.

The result is that the house is no longer vulnerable to a second burglary, the community can see offenders paying something back to society, and the offenders realise that burglary is a crime against a person, not a property.

ELAINE GRAZIN
West Yorkshire Probation Service
Wakefield

Making waves

Sir: Denis MacShane (Media, 7 July) distorted and personalised the argument over the BBC's coverage of Parliament. In particular, the argument in favour of moving *Yesterday in Parliament* to long wave is that listeners are offered a clearly signposted choice; the argument against is that *Yesterday in Parliament* will probably have, as a result, a smaller audience. And the fact that the Board of Governors, after extensive consultation, was brave enough to disagree with a number of MPs is an argument in favour of democracy, not against it.

Long wave, as Test match listeners know, is a robust frequency available almost everywhere in the UK. Denis MacShane, in his letter to me, said about re-tuning to long wave, "Life is too short and fiddling with re-tuning too difficult." Hence my offer of help - which remains open.

Sir CHRISTOPHER BLAND
Chairman
British Broadcasting Corporation
London W1

Teacher or nanny?

Sir: David Lister, in his article "Where did the rest of the term go?" (8 July) raises interesting issues. The sentiment of encouraging a love of learning for learning's sake and not just to pass examinations is commendable. As a teacher, I would love the idea of having my classroom full of 16-year-olds eager

to further their knowledge of literature.

Unfortunately, the reality will be a matter of coercing pupils into attending three weeks of citizenship classes. Lister's suggestions will change the role of teaching to one of nannying. Most people have managed to get through life without a teacher telling them how to open a bank account or to stay away from drugs. Not so long ago, people used to leave school at 16 or younger and make their own way in the world as independent adults. They soon learnt from their own mistakes.

Teachers could do without the extra burden of having to keep reluctant 16-year-olds entertained and off the street. Youngsters could do with spending their time just growing up, away from the well-meaning interference of teachers.

JOANNA WILLIAMS
Halesowen, West Midlands

Pay the penalty

Sir: Neil Dacey (letter, 6 July) offers a better way of dealing with the dreaded penalty shoot-out. I think I may have a better one still. Why not start with penalty kicks? That way we shall avoid the agony or boredom of a full-length game. Should the penalty kicks not provide a clear winner, one should then, in desperation, agree to play a full 90 minutes, with extra time.

I like football. I played without distinction for 21 years in local amateur leagues. I just do not like what has happened to the game. There is often much skill to be admired but all too often foul play and cheating - pushing, shirt-tugging, wrestling and all allowed to go unpunished. And the perpetrators are held up as heroes.

A J ALLAM
Old Coulsdon, Surrey

IN BRIEF

Sir: Professor John A Davis advances the view that women doctors encounter no prejudice (letter, 5 July). He was absent from my presentation of 1 June to the Consultant Staff Council at Addenbrooke's Hospital NHS Trust, in which I pointed out that Addenbrooke's only had 12 per cent of women at consultant level, in contrast to a national average of 19 per cent in September 1996. He must surely be aware that a working party is being created at the Trust to examine recruitment and retention of women doctors, following suggestions that all is not well in this regard.

PAULINE BRIMBLECOMBE
President, Cambridge Association
Medical Women's Federation
Cambridge

Sir: I see. The higher prices of Volkswagen products in the UK are due to the strength of sterling (Right of Reply, 8 July). Following the discovery of this previously unknown principle of economics can we expect an export boom as the pound climbs beyond DM4?

EW CROSS
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire

ENGLISH RED CROSS, NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, 9 GROSVENOR CRESCENT, LONDON SW1X

PANDORA

THIS IS all about the reshuffle now," a well-placed source told Pandora yesterday morning after surveying the Sunday newspapers. "It began with the Observer's exposure of New Labour lobbyists. That was an attack on Peter Mandelson via Draper and Liddle. This week the Mandelson forces are fighting back with attacks on Gordon Brown and Ed Balls in *The Sunday Times* and *The Express on Sunday*. The flames are rising downstairs in Tony Blair's house. And now they're threatening to move upstairs." Pandora can confirm this, having been telephoned yesterday by someone who wanted to plant ugly rumours about the Chancellor. Who will put a stop to this? The man whom Blair seems likely to appoint as chief firefighter is Jonathan Powell, the most powerful adviser within 10 Downing Street. Powell has kept a low profile to date, sometimes referring to himself as "wallpaper". He has been untainted by any of the lobbying controversy. It seems that Powell may acquire many of the powers that were to go with the job of "cabinet minister for the Cabinet". Until recently, Peter Mandelson seemed destined for that position, much to the alarm of other leading cabinet ministers and their henchmen. Indeed, it was that prospect that may have sparked this conflagration in the first place.

NOW FOR an important issue: hats. First, Piers Morgan, editor of *The Mirror*, explained why he probed the background of the Observer's investigative journalist. "I didn't like the look of Palast. He had a stammer and wore a hat, so I decided to investigate." Who could question such a compelling motivation? Then Peter Mandelson said in yesterday's *Observer* that "Derek should never have trusted an American who wears a trilby hat indoors." Hold on a second here. Pandora clearly recalls seeing the Minister without Portfolio strolling in Kensington Gardens one Sunday not too long ago sporting an American baseball cap on his head. This piece of headgear, so

fashionable with backward teenagers and homicidal rap singers (although perhaps not Piers Morgan), hardly seems a reason to withdraw one's trust for the man. Or does it now?

FOLLOWING FRIDAY'S policy declarations from Jeffrey Archer and Trevor Phillips, we bring you the rucksack statements of two other prospective candidates for London mayor. First, the Tory front-runner Steven Norris wins fairly high marks from the Anti-Rucksack on the Tube Campaign for his unequivocal support. "I know that rucksacks on the Tube can be an absolute pain in the backside," he told Pandora. "A whole section of the international tourist community seems to regard them as a mandatory accessory, but the London Underground is the most cosmopolitan meeting place in the world. They [London Transport] tell us how to run the rest of our lives, what to read, where to spit and where to sit, so I'm sure they can put up a sign saying 'make sure your rucksack is not sticking up someone's nose'." They can, but will they, Steven? Pandora hastens to add that it is not just foreigners who wear these dreadful lumps on their backs. They have become inexplicably fashionable and, today many of the worst offenders are Londoners. Xenophobia has no place in our campaign.

DISAPPOINTMENT AND shock were the campaign's initial reactions to the statement from an official spokeswoman for Glenda Jackson (below), possible Labour candidate for London mayor. "No opinion to offer on this subject," she said in a communication whose terseness may come back to haunt her leader at the polls. Indifference is simply not acceptable. Pandora urges readers to write to Ms Jackson, Minister for Transport in London, immediately and let her know how they feel. Don't miss tomorrow's column if you want to know where Ken Livingstone stands on rucksacks. Be prepared for a jolt.



Every superpower needs football



TREVOR PHILLIPS

The Americans' lack of enthusiasm for anything not home-grown is their greatest obstacle

single domestic TV audience and the richest market for merchandise, have not felt engaged with the drama of the World Cup.

The reason is that Americans like to be winners. Their great corporations want to create new heroes that American children can emulate. The current favourite, the basketball player Michael Jordan, is the world's most valuable athlete. He

takes in about \$70m a year, and is thought to be worth as much as \$10m a year to the American economy. But few outside of North America have much of a clue who he is.

Football, on the other hand, is the world's favourite game, played in every country, at every level, from the favelas of Sao Paulo to the courtyards of St Paul's school; the Brazilian striker Ronaldo is now known across the planet, yet he makes less than a quarter of Jordan's income.

So why can't football generate Jordanesque levels of return? Because, to achieve that, soccer would have to match, or even displace, basketball, football and baseball in the key market - the USA itself. It would also have to create US role models in soccer with whom the US public could identify.

The Princess of Wales was the first truly global superstar outside of the worlds of sport and (formal) entertainment. The Americans took her to their hearts and their TV screens, yet she never became American property. As a result, Americans have steadily lost interest in her since her death. Sales of books about her have

dipped and there seems little appetite for more television about her. The Americans' manifest lack of enthusiasm for anything that is not home-grown may be the greatest obstacle to their own corporations' globalising mission.

What the example of the World Cup shows is that, in all global enterprises, it is the talent that counts, and you cannot create talent out of no talent, the Spice Girls notwithstanding. So instead of Nike's and MacDonald's millions guaranteeing the spread of American values and heroes, they have been underwriting the resistance of the rest of the world to a cultural takeover by the USA.

For the moment, corporate America might not care very much. It is not such a big deal to create a different ad campaign from the one you use in the USA. But, sooner or later, America will have to make a choice. They could simply accept that there are some global industries that they cannot dominate; some things are just not open to purchase. Some sports or cultural ventures will not be in the hands of American enterprises. It would be quite harm-

less, the Iranians' 2-1 victory over the USA is a small price to pay for a thaw in relations with the West's most implacable foe in the Middle East. But should we welcome the boost to Croatian nationalism and identity that is already flowing from their unexpected third place in France '98? I think not.

There is an alternative. If Americans truly want to be masters of the universe, they have to learn what the Romans did: that they could not force their empire to become Roman - it was Rome that had to become multicultural.

The USA is itself increasingly polyglot and multiracial; but it holds fast to the notion that becoming American means adoption of the 'American way'. Thus, for example, it creates a so-called world championship in a sport played more or less exclusively by Americans - the baseball World Series, and justifies the title by including a couple of Canadian and Japanese teams. In a world without frontiers, this is not going to wash. A country that wants to be at the head of the world's nations is going to have to learn to play football.

Why Labour's devolution dream has gone sour



JOHN CURTICE

Instead of being Donald Dewar's coronation, next May's election could become a bitter battle

tion is not about the popularity of the current Westminster Government. Rather than use the elections to send a message to London, Scots believe the election should be about what happens in Edinburgh.

When asked how they would vote in a Westminster election, Scots continue to give Labour a clear lead. The same System Three poll that put Labour's Edinburgh support at a third found that 42 per cent would vote Labour in a Westminster election. Just one-third would vote SNP.

Scots are less keen on having a Labour government in Edinburgh for two reasons. First, they seem uncertain that Labour is sufficiently sensitive to Scotland's distinctiveness. Fewer than 59 per cent of those living in Scotland regard themselves as primarily Scottish, only 10 per cent as primarily British.

Despite delivering devolution, Labour has not always enhanced its Scottish credentials. It has refused to pay the fourth-year fees of English students attending Scottish universities. It has been accused of giving the London leadership too

much say in aspirant candidates for the new parliament. And it has insisted on reducing the size of the new parliament after the first election.

Scots voters draw a clear distinction between Labour's performance in Scotland and that in the rest of the UK. Those satisfied with Labour's performance in running the UK as a whole outnumber those dissatisfied by eight points. In contrast, when it comes to Labour's Scottish performance "dissatisfied" outnumber "satisfied" by 13 points.

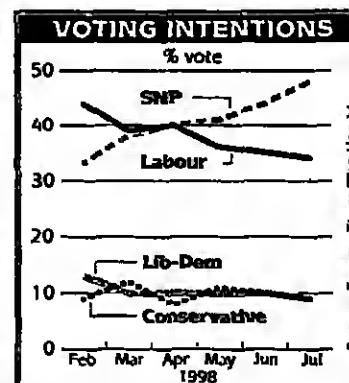
Scots also doubt that Labour is committed to using the new parliament's powers. The ICM finding that 56 per cent of voters would vote for Scotland to become independent certainly suggests a wish for a powerful parliament in Edinburgh.

Yet so far Labour's strategy has been to trumpet the party's achievements at Westminster and presume that Scots will vote gratefully for more of the same for Edinburgh. The party has yet to say how it might do things differently in Scotland.

But it would be a wrong to assume that Labour's tartan wares are all of their own making. Before Blair came to power, poll evidence suggested that the Scots were more inclined to vote SNP in a Scottish parliament election, because of the enhanced credibility the SNP will have in a Scottish election, where they provide the alternative government. In a Westminster election the SNP looks like a sideshow that can never win.

But winning power at Edinburgh will not simply be about who gets most votes. Rather it will be determined by who can pull together a majority of seats. And here the SNP could have two problems.

The first is the electoral system. True, next year's election will not be run under the first-past-the-post system which last year gave Labour more than three-quarters of Scot-



THE NEW SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT	
projected number of seats	
SNP	57
Labour	47
Lib-Dem	14
Conservative	11

Scotland's new parliament may be run by the Nationalists

land's seats for just 46 per cent of the vote. Instead an "additional member system" will be used, in which the outcome in 73 first-past-the-post seats will be balanced by 56 party list seats allocated to make the overall result more proportional. But the system does not provide for sufficient additional seats to ensure that any disproportionalities that may be generated by the constituency results are corrected. With its vote spread evenly across Scotland, the SNP finds it difficult to turn votes into first-past-the-post seats. If the nationalists managed to tie with Labour in votes, it could still be as many as a half-dozen behind in seats.

The second hurdle is finding a coalition partner. None of the polls have suggested the SNP is heading for an overall majority.

Our projection leaves them eight seats short. To become First Minister, Alex Salmond would need the

support of the Liberal Democrats.

Jim Wallace, the Liberal Democrats' Scottish leader, has been careful not to rule anything out. But he will be aware that opting for a deal with the SNP could harm the party's relations with Labour at Westminster just at the time when it might be hoping for Tony Blair's support for electoral reform at Westminster in the wake of the report of the Jenkins commission. The trouble is, Mr Wallace may not be able to put Labour in power even if he wanted to. The polls suggest a combined Labour and Liberal Democrat tally of 61 seats, four short of a majority.

To become First Minister, Donald Dewar would need the Conservatives' support. Would that be too much for Labour to swallow to save the Union?

The author is professor of politics at Strathclyde University

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Planning sustainable communities

ONE OF the biggest challenges facing this country is how to tackle the issue of household growth while building more sustainable communities. The number of households is continuing to grow, putting pressure on our precious countryside.

In February I published our document *Planning for the Communities of the Future*. That set out our commitments to protect the countryside, to revitalise our towns, and set a new target for 60 per cent of new homes to be built on previously developed land. Local authorities are at the centre of this process.

You will have a much greater say in shaping the future of your region, through greater ownership of the regional strategy.

With greater ownership comes increased responsibility. Through the regional planning conferences, you will have to defend your proposed level of housing provision. And once the strategy has been approved, then local authorities must take responsibility for carrying it through into development plans.

Promoting mixed uses in town centres will help breathe new life into our towns and cities, and enhance our quality of life and character of place. It will also foster mixed communities, which avoid ghettos of social exclusion and can be sustained in the long run.

One means of establishing mixed-use developments is the creation of urban villages.

The Millennium Village at Greenwich will be a tangible, living example of sustainable mixed-use development. It will provide a new, environmentally-friendly way of living in the 21st century. It will set the design standard for the future development of brown-field sites.

We will next week be announcing the next Millennium Village on the site of a community ravaged by the closure of its coal mine.

Concentrations of poor housing and deprived neighbourhoods contribute to the problems of social exclusion. Under-investment in housing in the mid-Nineties added to the problems. Local authority housing suffered most of all. We took swift action to redress this with our Capital Receipts Initiative. We have already made



PODIUM

JOHN PRESCOTT
From a speech by the
Deputy Prime Minister
to the Local
Government
Association Conference

£80m extra available for housing and housing-related regeneration schemes.

We all know that there is scope for reducing waste. Let me ask you - why do local authorities have more than 30 different types of manhole cover, for example? We are looking to the construction industry to deliver best value, to work with its clients and us in Government to raise efficiency and quality in the same way that manu-

facturing industry has done. Tackling housing problems is important, but it is not the solution on its own. Too often we have been round estates, repainting the doors, while doing nothing to alleviate the problems that lie behind them.

In areas of severe deprivation, it is necessary to combat long-term social and economic decline through a more comprehensive approach.

Councils must work in partnership with their communities, with businesses, landlords and housing associations, involving them in decision-making and drawing up proper strategies that provide solutions that last.

The Local Government Association's New Communities is a recognition of that approach, as is our New Deal for Communities, which will tackle problems in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

Of course, even if we achieved 75 per cent of new developments on brown-field sites as some people would wish, well ahead of our new target of 60 per cent, that would still leave a million extra homes to be found on green-field sites.

Deciding exactly where these homes should be built is just as challenging.

We cannot "pepperpot" the countryside with new housing, regardless of the circumstances. Of course, many villages and market towns need some new development if they are to thrive. We need to look for sustainable solutions, such as more development in "transport corridors" which utilise existing links and make services accessible.

That is what Hertfordshire did in Stevenage - channelling development into the transport corridors of the A1, the M1 and the East Coast Main Line. I supported that approach. We were criticised for the loss of green belt. But the damage to the countryside would have been much greater if we had allowed scattered development across the county. And, of course, the local authority added significantly to the green belt in the same structure plan.

As you join with us in partnership, together we can make a real and lasting impression on this country; we can build a future of greater social justice and a better quality of life for all.

Camille, and other martyrs



JOHN WALSH

No matter how well people get on with Camille... her knife will find its way into their ribs sooner or later

IT IS just too scary to go out at the moment. My nerves are frazzled. My mouth goes dry even thinking about it. I lie awake fretting for hours, then pull the duvet over my head, but still sleep evades me. I've been to a shrink, who says it is a foolish worry and will never happen, but I know he's lying.

I rang Fay Weldon just to confirm that this was, in fact, the worst thing that could happen to a person, but she was out, so I sit here in the crepuscular gloom, wondering whether there is a long, Greek-based word for my condition. Shall I say it straight out? I'm suffering from an irrational fear that Camille Paglia is about to drop round for tea.

Ms Paglia is the Philadelphia academic and *soi-disante* feminist who spends her professional time bad-mouthing the sisterhood, and her leisure time being horrible to journalists.

Over the last few days she's been doing publicity for her book on Alfred Hitchcock, and has been in fine, toxic form: delivering a few side-swipes to distinguished elderly American feminists (Kate Millet was "that imploding bean-bag of poisonous self-pity") and contemporary British ones (Beatrix Campbell was "a stupid little mediocrity"), writing a stinging letter to *The Daily Telegraph* rebuking Jonathan Dimbleby. And yesterday she dropped a small thermonuclear warhead in *The Observer* on her former pal, Tina Brown. Ms Brown, she says, had been brilliant at *Vanity Fair*, for whose pages La Paglia had flashed her formidable *poitrine* ("I announced to my publishers, to their utter horror, 'I'm going to expose my cleavage!'") but crap at *The New Yorker* ("The power and money began to go to her head... The Nineties reign of Brown and Evans was one of pretension, snobbery and disgusting display").

Two things alarm me about this otherwise entertaining polemic. One is the way that, no matter how well people get on with Camille, no matter what quality of friendliness may exist between her and they, her knife will find its way into their ribs sooner or later. In *The Observer* she reports how she made a special journey from Philly to Manhattan to support Tina Brown at a ritzy din-



Westminster Abbey's modern martyrs in marble. Archbishop Oscar Romero, left, Mance Masemola, centre, and Lucian Tapiedi

Brian Harris

ner in 1992, when Tina was just starting at the job; and how appalled she was to notice that the new editor was physically trembling with nerves. Paglia's disaffection with Brown, it seems, began at just the point when any other "supporter" would have felt most loyal.

The other worrying thing is her lack of self-knowledge, as when she complains about the awful quality of *The New Yorker's* literary contributors: "There was," she says, "a series of vicious feminist and academic insiders".

If ever there were a self-reflecting insult, that's surely one.

Watching the Dimbleby interview, Paglia grew steadily more heady-eyed and contemptuous with the hapless Jonathan. When he asked whether her views on divorce contained a contradiction, you could hear every hackle in her body, every quill on her spine, every scorpion sting in her combative hindquarters trembling for the kill. I think Dimbleby was lucky that she stormed off in a rage, or they'd still be picking bits of his scrotum out of the sound boom. There's a pitiless quality about Camille that is not susceptible to compromise, to moderation or human warmth.

And that's why I sit here in ner-

vous disarray, trying not to imagine her parked on my sofa, regarding my Garibaldi biscuits and Fondant Fancies with a basilisk glare, curling her lip at my sugar-cube tongs and turning the milk sour with a glance from those cobra eyes.

I HAVE been a connoisseur of quasi-religious statuary all my life. I grew up with all the saints of the Catholic Church arrayed at the end of my bed. At the Vatican Two restructuring of the Church, many of them were decommissioned, and I sometimes wonder where they wound up - St Christopher and St Anthony and the rest, who suddenly were not saints any more.

It must be like former Cabinet ministers who find themselves making ineffectual speeches on the back benches, trying to persuade the Derek Drapers of this world that they once counted for something. I imagine them hanging out in some fly-blown celestial bar with plastic bead curtains straight out of a Graham Greene novel ("Waiter - Just leave the bottle"), talking about the glory days when they used to save motorists and find lost shoes.

When I attended Mass, my attention could always be distracted by the plaster saints and martyrs, standing around the walls of the church like awkward party guests. I would gaze at the exotic duskiness of St Martin de Porres, the Catholic church's token black man, and at the Little Infant Jesus of Prague, a grotesque Czech doll in a tea-cosy and a sateen frock holding a sceptre like a magic wand; and at St Catherine, picturesquely martyred on a vast incendiary wheel. Martyrs were always more interesting than saints because the nature of their death tended to be the subject of the sculpture (such as St Sebastian bristling with arrows). So it was with lively interest that I went round to Westminster Abbey to look at the new line-up of 20th-century martyrs.

Ten statues in French limestone stand on the niches in the Gothic west front of the Abbey. They are mostly of priests, bishops and evangelical ministers who died for their faith, with the odd wild card thrown in, such as the 16-year-old girl Mance Masemola, who was killed by her own parents because she converted to Anglicanism, and the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Fedorovna, who was flung down a mine shaft by the Bolsheviks in 1918, and

had the additional burden of being though she did not then know it) Prince Philip's great-aunt.

Regrettably, her stature does not illustrate the headlong and upside-down nature of her demise. Nor do the other statues bear the marks of bullet wounds and terminal blows.

On the contrary, the figures, all sculpted by Tim Crawley, are unusually vital and lively - so much so that at first sight they seem to be dancing. Martin Luther King, one finger raised, one palm extended, appears to be carrying out some funky back-step routine; Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador, in oversize Elton John specs, is swaying with a grotesque baby on his arms; Ms Masemola herself is a teenage vision in a crop-top and ankle bangles, raising her skirt to the music; and Lucian Tapiedi, a disco hound with a bare chest and Eraserhead quiff.

For a moment, I suspected Mr Crawley of being disrespectful towards the glorious dead, but I was wrong. His unusually mobile statues are a kind of propaganda, 10 vivid advertisements for Christian resilience, 10 figures who danced in the face of danger and would not give in to people who could not bear

to lose arguments. They are the last word in niche marketing.

"It is a long and ambitious slog," sneered Luke Harding, writing on Derek Draper in *The Guardian* last week, "from a modest house in unfashionable Chorley, Lancashire, to the inner sanctum of government".

Unfashionable? Oooh-fashionable? Of all the bloody cheek. Someone should inform Mr lah-di-dah Harding that Chorley, Lancs, far from being some benighted northern cloth-cap-wearing, smoke-belching kind of place, is home to the country's finest pastry-based confection. The Chorley Cake, I am reliably informed by a gourmet chum, is a little discus-shaped dream of compacted dried fruits and candied peel, enveloped in pastry and flattened, as if a 16-wheeler truck had run over an Eccles cake. Should Mr Harding feel like overcoming his effete south-eastern prejudices and sampling this gorgeous item, he can find it on sale at Terence Courran's Bluebird Café in Chelsea, than which there are no more fashionable four walls in the entire country. I'll give you unfashionable...

RIGHT OF REPLY

MICHAEL NAZIR-ALI



The Bishop of Rochester argues for the retention of an established Church of England

FROM THE very beginnings of a national consciousness, the Church of England has been involved in the decision-making councils of the nation. The origins of parliamentary government lie in bishops and others taking counsel with the monarch of the day.

Every society needs spiritual vision and a moral framework. In Britain, this spiritual vision is bound up with the Judaeo-Christian tradition. The Establishment of Ecclesia Anglicana, or the Church of England, is symbolic of the nation's desire that this vision be at the heart of national life.

Those who argue that an established church has no place in a multi-faith society fail to reckon with the views of other faiths. A conference organised by the Policy Studies Institute found a consensus among other faith communities for the establishment of the Church. They felt that the spiritual dimension of existence should be recognised constitutionally.

The Church sees its position as one of trust. Its place in parliament and other institutions is not to be used selfishly. In the debates on education in the 1980s, the bishops were concerned that people of other faiths should also get a fair deal. When the Prince of Wales said that he wanted to be "Defender of Faith" it was, no doubt, this role of advocacy which he had in mind. He was not arguing for disestablishment. It seems that the only people who argue for disestablishment are those who want all religious faith marginalised.

Through services, weddings, funerals, baptisms, civic and national events, the Church maintains a Christian presence in towns, villages, and the inner-city.

It is unique. Let us not get rid of what this newspaper calls "one of the nation's great institutions".

The great feud in the sky

SCIENCE WRITING, we keep hearing, is the new rock'n'roll, or at least the New Muzak. With Stephen Hawking's all-time hit *A Brief History of Time* now 10 years old, every self-respecting publisher is searching for the Holy Grail of a hugely popular science book. You may quibble that it has already been found, but why shouldn't there be two Grails?

Certainly, Hal Hellman's *Great Feuds in Science* (subtitled "Ten of the liveliest disputes ever") scores highly on the title front. Although many people believe that all scientists do is either stare into space or wield pipettes while wearing white coats, the truth is that science does not progress in neat steps, but by argument.

That usually means tearing down one set of dearly held beliefs - about how, for example, the continents came into being - and replacing them with another which opponents describe as rubbish. Eventually, the enemies die and the new "truth" prevails.

The trouble with Hellman's book is that the title and subtitle promise more than they deliver. He starts with Galileo's battle against the Church and Pope Urban VIII, in which the scientist insisted that the movements of the planets could best be explained by a moving Earth, so taking it away from the centre of the solar system and the known universe.

But while this might count as a lively dispute, it was hardly a scientific one. Also, Hellman takes the trouble to offer us the (translated) original cut-and-thrust of Galileo's arguments. Seen centuries later, his satir-



MONDAY BOOKS

STAR WARS IN SPACE AND TIME: GREAT FEUDS IN SCIENCE

BY HAL HELLMAN, JOHN WILEY, £16.50

LIFE OUT THERE

BY MICHAEL WHITE, LITTLE, BROWN, £16.99



cal logic just seems self-indulgent. Galileo's trial was a turning-point in the ascendancy of science over religion. Hellman compresses it into a single chapter. This is fatal. You get the feeling that Hellman, after years of research, became so immersed that he is chortling over Galileo's witty comments while the reader is left mystified that this could all seem so important to people.

The same feeling pervades the rest of the book: the drama

seems to seep away instead of building up a head of steam. Often, one person in the "lively dispute" dies before it reaches any sort of resolution, which takes away a lot of the edge.

Only two of the ten arguments have any currency. One is the anthropologist Margaret Mead's "nurture versus nature" debate on her findings about Western Samoa. The other involves the origin of human beings, which can still inspire rows, as a conference earlier

this month in South Africa demonstrated.

Hellman could have found 10 much more interesting disputes this century, even over the past 10 years. The claims that water has a "memory"; cold fusion; Rupert Sheldrake's idea of "morphic resonance"; the causes of BSE; whether HIV causes AIDS. That's five, all pretty much resolved, though the principals are still around, and still fuming.

To that list of current dis-

MONDAY POEM

A TEXT ABOUT THE FIVE

BY MAK DIZDAR, TRANSLATED BY FRANCIS R. JONES

Four men leading one man bound
One man whom the four men bound

Four men's faces dour and dire
Over water over wire

On they scoff and on they trough
Through each thread and through their bread

Through each hedge and through each Y

Until freedom us untie

Past the homes and past the tombs
Through the earth and through the sky

Four men leading one man bound
One man whom the four men bound

One man counted bound and led
One man whom the four men dread

Our poems until Wednesday come from Chris Agee's anthology of contemporary poetry from Bosnia, *'Scar on the Stone'* (Bloodaxe, £8.95)

CHARLES ARTHUR

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Lord Swaythling

DAVID MONTAGU, who succeeded as fourth Baron Swaythling in 1990, was born into a merchant banking dynasty, but, although he joined Samuel Montagu & Co in 1949, he was by no means a passive inheritor of position.

Using his considerable resources of foresight, intelligence and flair, he recognised that Samuel Montagu's relatively limited capital and activities in the foreign exchange and gold markets would not be enough in the quickly changing post-war landscape of the City and was a crucial energetic force in developing the bank into a leading contender in the highly competitive investment and corporate finance sectors.

He went on to prove his worth as chairman and chief executive of Orion Bank (1974-79), director of J. Rothschild Holdings (1983-89) and chairman of Rothmans International (1988-98). He was a much-sought-after board member of many banks, investment trusts and industrial companies, was often consulted by government, and was from 1990-96 a member of the Board of Banking Supervision of the Bank of England. He was also a director of London Weekend Television for 21 years and a director of the Telegraph between 1985 and 1996. His interests were many, reflected in his charitable activities (often within the Jewish community), his love of racing (he was proud to be a founder member of the British Horse Racing Board) and his steady support of the Royal National Theatre.

David Montagu learnt early on not to accept self-importance at face value, with the rude discovery that the trimmings of his father's life did not quite match up to reality. "My father," he said in an interview, "used to go to Samuel Montagu every day. He and his Labrador would be picked up in the Rolls by the chauffeur and driven from Grosvenor Crescent to the beginning of the park, precisely 300 yards, where he would get out and walk the dog to Admiralty Arch where the car would pick him up again and take him to the City, and the Labrador home."

I thought he must be a great banker to have to go off to the office every day. In point of fact, what he used to do when he got there was his herd books or answer letters from the English Guernsey Cattle Society. I don't think he ever took much part in the bank.

The third Baron Swaythling was no more successful as a father than he was at banking and his son remembered early holidays at the family estate, Townhill Park in Swaythling, Hampshire, as being spent almost entirely with staff. Perhaps it was here that he learned to be strategic in his protest: forbidden to pick peaches grown for the Royal Horticultural Show, the children dutifully left the plentiful harvest hanging on the bough but out

before taking a bite from each fruit.

If his memory of his father was of a cold man who never spoke to him of anything other than cattle, Montagu's relationship with his mother and stepfather was considerably warmer and life improved after his parents' divorce in 1942, but was disrupted when he was evacuated on the outbreak of war, first to Canada and then to Bermuda.

His place at Eton provoked an abrupt return to Britain during the Blitz and, ironically, it was whilst in a London hospital for a minor operation that Montagu suffered a permanent injury when the building was bombed. He emerged without the use of his knee and suffered pain throughout the rest of his life, typically turning this to ammunition in later years by placing the limb ostentatiously across his desk as

main influence there, had made it clear to him there was no future for him within the family firm.

Franck's discouragement was sufficient spur for Montagu to set himself the target not only of becoming senior partner and, when the bank went public, chairman, but also of witnessing and enjoying Franck's departure. All of this Montagu was to achieve by his early forties.

Although personal animosity eventually divided them, Franck and Montagu's contributions to the bank's development were in fact complementary. Franck concentrated on the gold and currency markets, while Montagu's inspiration was crucial in the field of the asset management and corporate finance franchises.

Montagu dreamed up the split-level investment trust, a vehicle so successful that he believed he would be credited with its invention on his

vention to the full as he juggled the component shareholders with stylish agility.

Orion's huge success did not blind him to the fact that the consortium bank was a construct with a limited life, but Montagu failed to convince his less perceptive shareholders that this was so and, when they turned down his suggestion that one of their number should buy out the others, he resigned in protest, only to witness his former shareholders carrying out his advice in under two years; shortly after this, there were virtually no remaining consortium banks in existence.

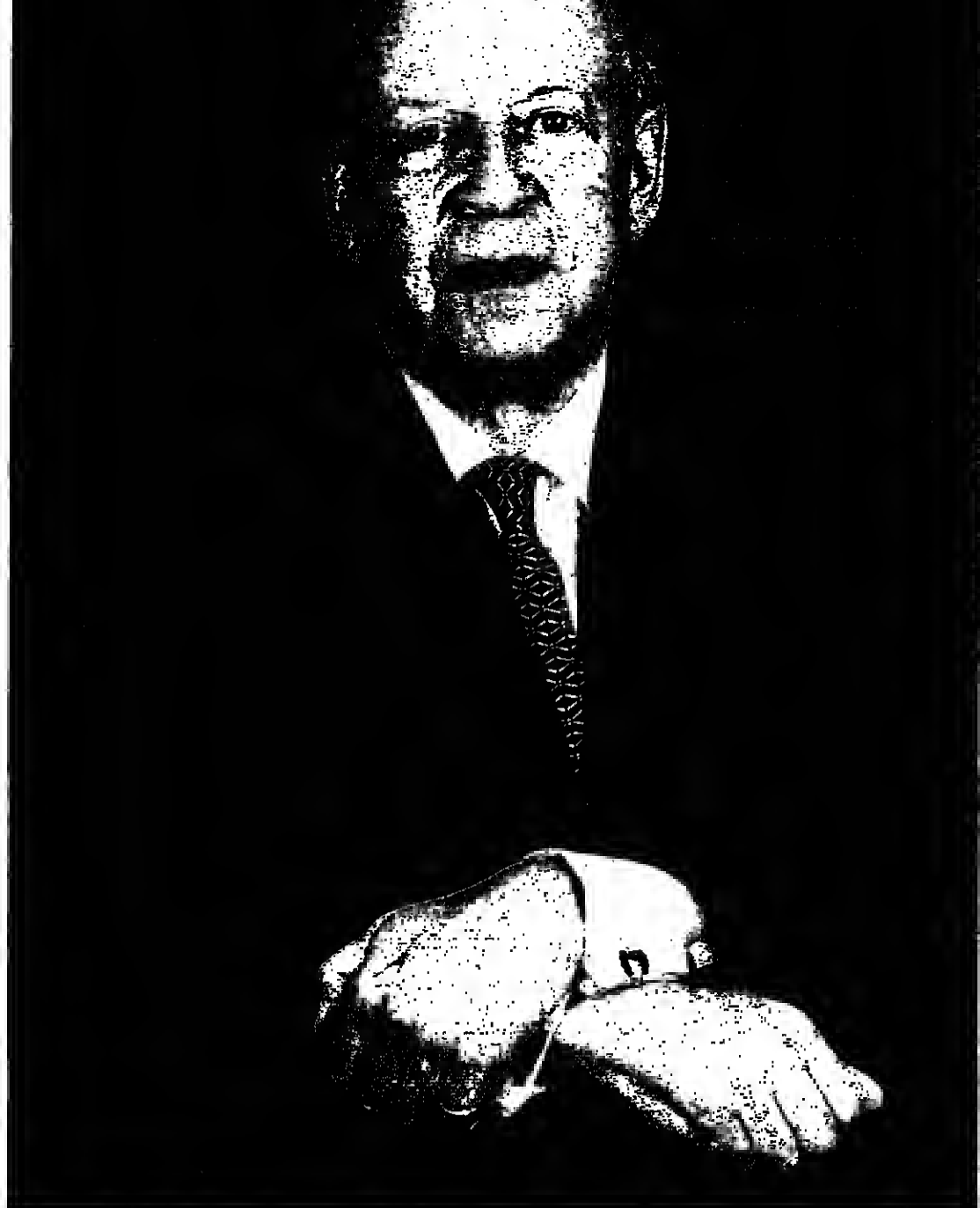
Such was the level of his achievement at Orion that Montagu received no fewer than 36 offers on his resignation, including a personal courtship by Siegmund Warburg, but, according to his own story, he somehow picked the only bad egg, embarking on an extremely unhappy few months working in London for the American bank Merrill Lynch.

His friend and colleague John Craven, whose employment at Merrill Lynch covered the same period, relates that it was only Montagu's sense of humour which kept him sane during the interlude. Eventually they boarded Concorde together, arriving in New York by 9.30am, and were, figuratively speaking, back on the pavement by 10, triumphantly clutching their severance cheques, before flying home in time for dinner.

Montagu suspected that this third resignation might signal the end of his banking career, but he was rescued by Jacob Rothschild, who approached him to run Ailsa Investment Trust, which he did happily until 1988, when he succumbed to his desire to work in industry and became chairman of Rothmans International, with whose founder, Dr Anton Rupert, and his son Johann, he had had close ties since his days at Samuel Montagu.

Although he knew he had leukaemia (which he tended to describe as a mild blood disease), Montagu continued to smoke, eventually giving up cigarettes in favour of cigars, and to argue that the link between tobacco and cancer had yet to be proven. Gradually he gave up more and more of his outside interests, including shooting, but he continued at Rothmans until April of this year.

During a long oral history recording for the National Sound Archive which I made with David Swaythling in 1993, he confessed with a schoolboy smile that his wife was always glad when it was an interview day, since he came home in splendid humour having talked about himself for a good two hours. His ability to



David Montagu: fourth Baron Swaythling but no passive inheritor of position

recognise his own character traits was matched by his delight in the absurd behaviour of his fellow men.

If he did not necessarily set the traps into which people fell, he relished it when the arrogant were hoist by their own self-delusion, as well as being an astute documentation of a transfiguring period in Britain's financial history. Swaythling's recording is punctuated by a series of hilarious observations, his targets sometimes public figures such as Edward Heath (whom he admired) or Margaret Thatcher, but often more lowly candidates such as the puffed-up chief executive of a clearing bank, a breed of organis-

ation which Swaythling despised throughout his career.

Montagu met his future wife, Ninette, in France in 1951, during his traineeship at Samuel Montagu, and first proposed a few days after their meeting, initially claiming a shared liking of pickled onions as his excuse. They began what was to be a lasting marriage in December that year. They had three children and together had to face their eldest daughter's suicide in 1982. Perhaps particularly because of the blows which he suffered in private life, Montagu knew how to value friendship and he was much loved and respected by a wide circle of col-

leagues and friends spanning the broad range of his interests.

Cathy Courtney

David Charles Samuel Montagu, banker: born London 6 August 1928; executive director, Samuel Montagu & Co 1954, chairman 1970-73; chairman and chief executive, Orion Bank 1974-79; chairman, Ailsa Investment Trust 1981-88; chairman, Rothmans International 1988-98; succeeded 1990 as fourth Baron Swaythling; married 1951 Ninette Dreyfus (one son, one daughter, and one daughter deceased); died London 1 July 1998.

François Lehideux

THE DEATH of François Lehideux means the disappearance of the last Secretary of State from the governments of Vichy. Like every event that concerns this period in the history of France a recollection of the past career of Lehideux both enlightens us and leads us into deeper controversy.

To begin with, as so many historians have said, Marshal Pétain was someone who was firmly anchored in the 19th century. All his existence was constructed around the existence of a profound and truthful France based on the soil and on those who cultivated the soil, those who became brave soldiers and who were prepared to give their lives for their country. The government was therefore based on old-fashioned principles as it was by an old man.

But if we look at the career of François Lehideux we can see that there were many young men, managers and technicians in business and manufacturing, who joined the Vichy administration with the aim of

modernising France. They were not interested in republicanism; they wanted to improve France's industrial production. Lehideux came from the Renault motorworks to join with others in doing this work.

As to controversy, it has been said that in July 1940 a secret society was formed in France. It called itself "La Synarchie", presumably inferring that its members would share power together. It aimed at controlling the whole of French industry through particular organisational committees.

It also insisted upon a non-political atmosphere in the government, therefore having no time for the national revolution, for ex-socialists like Laval, or for any French Fascism. It has been suggested that anti-Semitism was also to be excluded.

Lehideux was usually described as having been a member of this group. He has related how, at a Vichy cabinet meeting in September 1941, the newly nominated Minister for Justice arrived in a state of considerable excitement having discovered the

existence of that body. This seems to suggest that the "synarchie" did exist and that Lehideux was a member. However, at a seminar held in Paris in 1970, Lehideux, speaking for the first time about his experiences, seemed to suggest that it was "political fiction".

François Lehideux was born in 1904 in Paris, his father being a banker. He was educated at the Ecole Libre des Sciences Politiques. He took various appointments in banking and business, and paid visits to the United States, where he became an admirer of their modern technology, particularly in the Ford works.

In 1929 he married Françoise Renault, the niece of Louis Renault, the motor manufacturer. He took up an important post in the works at Billancourt and before he had reached the age of 30 he had become the chief administrator. He presided over the immense development of the firm.

He thought the arrival of the Popular Front in 1936 would provide

an opportunity for improving relations between the workers and their employers, but he found that Blum's government was totally ignorant of economics and he was disappointed with the introduction of the 40-hour week. The Front ended in a series of strikes to which Lehideux responded with some brutality, being in charge of both the Renault motor works and Renault-Aviation.

In September 1939 he was called up to a machine-gun regiment but within two months he was made second-in-command of the military programme of all automobile factories. With the armistice he returned to Renault, but found himself at odds with Louis Renault over the policy to be adopted towards the Germans, who wanted them to repair all the French tanks that had been captured by the German army.

Almost immediately he was put in charge of the repair and recovery for all motor-car and bicycle workshops. Then in October 1940 he was appointed Commissaire to reduce

the 1.2 million unemployed in occupied France. In January 1941 he became a member of the new government constituted by Admiral Darlan. He became Secretary of State for National Equipment, then, in July 1941, Secretary of State for Industrial Production. His duties were to prepare French industry for oncoming difficulties, especially shortage of raw materials, but above all to prepare French industry for the post-war period. A 10-year plan was envisaged.

Part of his duties was continued negotiations with the Germans. He was helped by the representative of Germany for economic affairs in Paris, Elmar Michel, installed in the Majestic Hotel. They established good working arrangements which made Hermann Goering very suspicious of Michel, whom he nicknamed "père des Français".

On one occasion Goering ordered that the bells of all the churches in France should be seized and melted down, so that Germany would gain several thousand tons of

bronze. Lehideux negotiated with Michel from 9am to 6pm, eventually succeeding in having Goering's proposal rejected (much to his fury).

But Lehideux was very much a Darlan man, and when Laval returned to power in April 1942, after some hesitation, he resigned. His work was in any case stopped by the complete German occupation of France in November 1942. Like many of his colleagues, Lehideux tried to persuade Marshal Pétain to go to North Africa, but failed.

In 1944 Lehideux was imprisoned in Fresnes, where he spent two years. In 1946 he was given provisional liberty, and, although he received further prison sentences and was deprived of civil rights, these were suspended.

He returned to business and became President of Ford in France. In 1959 he became a member of the Conseil Economique et Social. But his greatest activity was with the association for the defence of the memory of Marshal Pétain, whose

president he became in the 1990s. He defended the actions of Pétain, claiming that he had acted patriotically after 1940, a defence which he applied to his own actions. He wanted the remains of the Marshal to be transferred from the Ile D'Yeu to Douaumont, Verdun.

His own criticism of Pétain was always the speech that he made in attacking the capitalism and the trusts of big business. He used to tell the story of the Pétainist who claimed that he disliked the power that had been given to a clique of businessmen, and Darlan, hearing this, replied, "They're better than the beardless altar boys that you want."

François Lehideux was an automobile autocrat. And his son has followed his example, having written a history of the automobile.

Douglas Johnson

François Lehideux, businessman and politician: born Paris 30 January 1904; married; died Paris 21 June 1998.



DURING HIS 40-year career as a singer, the Italian baritone Renato Capecchi gave a vast amount of pleasure to opera lovers in Italy, Britain, France, Germany, Austria and North and South America.

The 200 or so roles that he had accumulated by the time he retired were mainly comic, but he was also a noted interpreter of new music, taking part in the first performances of operas by Giorgio Ghedini, Gian Francesco Malipiero, Sylvano Buscotti and other composers, as well as the Italian premieres of works by Rolf Liebermann and S. Shostakovich. He appeared at the Aix-en-Provence, Salzburg and Glyndebourne Festivals, where his superb musicianship, great acting ability and perfect diction made him a welcome visitor.

Capecchi was born of Italian parents in Cairo. At first he studied vi-

olin, before being drafted into the Italian Army in the Second World War. After the war he studied singing with Ubaldo Carrozzi in Milan, and made his debut in 1948 at a concert on Italian radio. His stage debut took place in 1949 at Reggio Emilia, as Amonasro in *Aida*. The same year he took part in the premiere of Ghedini's *Billy Budd* at Venice, and sang the title role in the famous production of *Don Giovanni* designed by A.M. Cassandre at Aix-en-Provence that was to endure for many years to come. At Aix he also sang Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte* and Dr Bartolo in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*.

Capecchi first sang at La Scala in 1950, in the premiere of Malipiero's *La leggenda brigata*. Five years later he took part in another premiere at La Scala, singing Matthias in Verdi's *Il giudizio universale*. He also

appeared in other, more usual operas, as Ford in *Falstaff*, Fra Melitone in *La forza del destino*, Ping in *Turandot* and Kyoto in *Mascanzi's Iris* - the last-named one of the few villains that he represented. At the Piccola Scala there were two more premieres, Malipiero's *La donna e mobile* and Luciano Chailly's *Una donna da matrimonio*, both in 1957.

Meanwhile Capecchi's international career was flourishing. He made his Metropolitan debut in 1951 as Germont père in *La Traviata*, another unwontedly serious part. In 1962 he sang Mozart's Figaro in Chicago, and made his Covent Garden debut as Fra Melitone, which had become one of his best roles. In it he trod the knife edge between over-clowning as many singers do, and taking the garrulous old monk too seriously. He appeared

in the part at San Francisco in 1969, returned with it to Covent Garden in 1973, and appeared at the Verona arena in 1975, when his Melitone was as effective as ever.

At San Francisco Capecchi had already appeared as Rossini's Dr Bartolo (1968), and he returned in 1970 as Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte*, another very successful part. In 1977 and 1978 he sang the title role of *Falstaff* at Glyndebourne, characterising the old rogue with a mixture of bravura and pathos (ratio seven to three) that I found very stimulating. As always his splendid but unforced diction was a tremendous aid in those pre-suitcase days. Meanwhile, he was still taking on new roles, such as Sharpless in *Madame Butterfly* at Philadelphia in 1986 and the Maestro di Cappella in the first performance of Bus-

sotti's *L'ispirazione* at the Florence Maggio Musicale in 1988.

Renato Capecchi directed a number of operas during the latter part of his career, including *Don Giovanni* at Milwaukee in 1987. He made many recordings, including some of his finest stage roles: Dr Dulcamara (*L'elisir d'amore*), Gianni Schicchi, Fra Melitone, Mozart's Figaro, Rossini's Dr Bartolo, Dandini (*La Cenerentola*). Most of them give a good idea of Capecchi the singer, but grease-paint ran in his veins, and one needed to see and hear him in the theatre to appreciate all his qualities.

Elizabeth Forbes

Renato Capecchi, operatic baritone: born Cairo 6 November 1923; married (one son, one daughter); died Milan 30 June 1998.

Sir Foley News

FOLEY NEWS was a distinguished member of the Colonial Service from 1932 to 1971. Serving mainly in West Africa, he became Secretary to the Governor-General and the Council of Ministers in the Federation of Nigeria from 1955 to 1959, and was appointed Deputy Governor of Sierra Leone in 1960.

A constitutional expert, News was closely involved in the transformation of Nigeria from a British colony into an independent state. He was responsible for introducing the system of cabinet government in Nigeria and Sierra Leone, and his methods were later copied throughout British Africa in the final years of colonial rule. After Sierra Leone was granted independence in 1961, News stayed on for two more years to advise the new African administration, before moving to the Bahamas, where he served as Secretary of the Cabinet from 1963 to 1971.

News was born in London in 1909 into a missionary family with a strong tradition of family service in the British Empire. Like many of his fellow colonial officers, a high percentage of whom came from a strongly religious family background, he was the son of an Anglican clergyman; his father, the Rev Alfred News, had spent much of his life working in Montserrat and Antigua.

News was educated at Mercers School (Holborn), Christ's Hospital and at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, where he was an Exhibitioner in Mathematics. He was an all-rounder who excelled at sport and displayed from an early age the leadership skills so keenly sought after by the Colonial Office in its recruitment for the Colonial Service. At Christ's Hospital he was Senior Greco-Latin (head of school) and captain of the school rugby and swimming teams.

While studying at Cambridge he decided to apply to the Colonial Administrative Service (CAS), the élite body charged with the running of Britain's vast colonial empire. Recruitment to the service was handled by the indomitable figure of Sir Ralph Furse, Chief Recruiting Officer, who had once remarked that "men of brains should be slaves, slaves of the men of character". Furse's Colonial Administrative Service hunted for men with "vision, high ideals of service, fearless devotion to duty born of a sense of responsibility, tolerance, and above all, team spirit".

The job of colonial administrator was an attractive prospect for young men who sought both adventure and public service in the far flung outposts of Empire. In News's words, "It was looked upon as a plum job much in de-

mand." After being accepted for the service in 1931, News attended the one-year Tropical African Services Course at Cambridge. At the height of the Depression, he was just one of only 20 men recruited to the CAS during that year.

In 1932 News was appointed to Nigeria, the largest and most populous of Britain's African colonies. In Nigeria less than 400 District Officers ruled over 20 million African inhabitants. Inured with the principles of indirect rule enshrined in Lord Lugard's *The Dual Mandate* (1922), News was posted to South Eastern Nigeria, and began his career as an Assistant District Officer.

His first District, Bende, contained over a hundred thousand people, and had only been penetrated by the British a quarter of a century earlier, when, according to News, "It was found that human meat was for sale in the markets

'It was found that human meat was for sale in the markets and people were terrified by the Juju priests making extortionate demands and sacrifices'

and people were terrified by some of the Juju priests making extortionate demands and sacrifices."

Before moving to the Secretariat in Lagos in 1949, News was to spend 17 years working in district administration, often in primitive one-man stations isolated from centres of British settlement. He served under some of the greatest Colonial Governors of his era, including Sir Donald Cameron, Sir Bernard Bourdillon, and Sir Arthur Richards (Lord Milverton).

News spent over a third of his life in Africa, the continent which became his spiritual home. He abhorred all forms of racial prejudice, and counted numerous African leaders and academics among his very closest friends. These included Chief Simeon Adebayo, an Administrative Officer under the British



who later became Chancellor of the University of Lagos, and Sir Milton Margai, the first Prime Minister of independent Sierra Leone. News was devastated by the assassination in 1966 of his friend Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Prime Minister of Nigeria, with whom he had worked closely during the constitutional preparations for Nigerian independence. He believed Tafawa Balewa's death to be not only a great tragedy for the people of Nigeria but also a huge blow to peaceful political change across the newly independent African continent.

Sir Foley News was an idealist who joined the Colonial Service out of a deep desire to serve God, Empire and the peoples of West Africa. He believed in a life of sacrifice and altruism, and in his retirement continued his long tradition of

service by becoming actively involved with several charity and voluntary organisations including the Cambridge Specific Learning Disabilities Group.

In his final years he was saddened by the continuing political violence and dictatorial rule which has marred the progress of post-independence Nigeria. But he died cherishing the hope that the continent to which he devoted his life would prosper and flower in the new millennium.

Nile Gardiner

Alfred Foley Francis Polden News, colonial administrator; born London 30 January 1909; CMG 1957, KCMG 1963; CVO 1961; married 1936 Jean Bateman (died 1984); one son, one daughter; 1988 Beryl Watling; died Cambridge 21 June 1998.

SOCIOLOGICAL NOTES

WILLIAM ARENS

Are, or were, the English cannibals?

WHILE TRAVELLING through Scandinavia in 1795, Mary Wollstonecraft reports in her published letters that she happened on a public execution in Copenhagen. As a liberal reformer she remonstrated against this vestige of barbarity. She adds that a "man of veracity" informed her that two onlookers then appeared from the crowd and proceeded to drink a glass of the deceased's blood as a presumed cure for apoplexy. When she took issue with this she was reproved by her native informant: "How do you know it is not a cure for the disease?"

Wollstonecraft dismissed her boasts as ignorant and drops the subject as if drinking human blood were a minor question of native manners and morals. Perhaps she should not have become so perplexed over the matter in the first place, for at the time in England desiccated human body parts and fluids were available in apothecary shops as remedies for a host of human maladies. Indeed today's medical profession still relies on related procedures such as injections of human pituitary extracts - with about as much success and rationality as 18th-century apoplexy Danes - and some "back to nature" enthusiasts even insist on consuming the placenta of their newborn.

This scenario raises interesting questions about human ingestion habits: are, or were, the English cannibals? This is an issue of perspective shaped by our position in time and space. We see cannibalism through the mists of time and distance and fail to countenance that it may be happening here and now. The further away cannibalism is, the more distinct it becomes.

The West has regarded cannibalism in this way for a long time with dismal results for the presumed culprits in other times and places. The European "first contact" literature often intimated that the reader was entering into an earlier age as mysterious other people were encountered as relics of our own historical inclinations. There is evidence from these early meetings to suggest that the cannibals saw us in a similar fashion - as ghostly ancestors returning from afar. From this perspective anything is possible: if the ancestors were cannibals, might not we, equally alien, possibly have the same inclinations?

When the British returned to determine



Captain Cook: was he eaten?

whether Captain Cook had been eaten, the Hawaiians informed them that he had not because they did not know this was the custom among his people! The cannibalistic characterisation of the strange culture translates the alien into the savage. But only one side records the encounter and in the process mythical thinking enters our historical record and the cannibal "is invented" for our intellectual satisfaction. Indeed, where are the man-eating Caribs of the 15th century, the blood-drinking Aztecs of the 16th, and the despoilers of the heroic dead from the 17th but in the history books of their conquerors?

Fortunately we still have the distant 20th-century peoples of Highland New Guinea to satisfy our appetite. Those familiar with the medical literature know they were beset in mid-century with a mysterious disease called kuru. Eventually it was decided, by Nobel-quality medical research, that these benighted people brought this suffering upon themselves by eating each other. This detail would have passed into arcane medical history if not for the fact that the British are anxious about a variation on the same malady today. Can it really be that they have unknowingly infected themselves with BSE and the New Guineans with "Mad People" or do we merely reserve the label of cannibals for the savage? In my opinion, either we are all cannibals, or none of us is.

William Arens contributes to the collection of essays *'Consuming Passions: food in the age of anxiety'* (Manchester University Press, £10)

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

RUSSELL: Katharine Frances (KID), nee Stewart, died in peace on 9 July, aged 88, funeral on Wednesday 15 July, 12 noon, at Christ Church, Chelsea. Family flowers only, please. Donations, if wished, to Time and Talents Association, c/o Robert Armitage, 12 Milner Street, London SW3 2PU. A thanksgiving service will be held later.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh visits Kvaerner Cleveland Bridge, Darlington, County Durham. Princess Alexandra, President of the Children's Country Holidays Fund, attends a reception at Société Générale, Exchange House, London EC2.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr David Blatherwick, ambassador to Egypt, 57; Professor Derek Brewer, former Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, 75; Sir Richard Buxton, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 60; Mr Ian Campbell, civil engineer, 76; Sir James Craig, Vice-Chairman, Middle East Association, 74; Mr Moss Evans, former trade union leader, 73; Mr Harrison Ford, actor, 56; Mr Larry Gomes, West Indies cricketer, 45; Vice-Admiral the Hon Sir Nicholas Hill-Norton, former Deputy Chief of Defence Staff, 59; Mr Ian Hislop, Editor, *Private Eye*, 38; Mr Peter Joh, chief executive, Reuters, 57; Sir Philip Jones, chairman, Total Oil Marine, 67; Mr Kenneth Machin, a circuit judge and Chief Social Security Commissioner, 62; Vice-Admiral Sir Gerard Mansfield, 77; Mr Bryan Murray, actor, 49; Dr Gillian Murray, Director, Kew Gardens, 61; Brigadier Dame Jean Rivett-Drake, former Director, WRAC, 89; Dr Patricia Rodgers, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, the Bahamas, 50; Mr Chris Serle, television presenter, 55; Miss Rachel Squire MP, 44; Mr Patrick Stewart, actor, 58; Mr David Storey, playwright, 65; Professor the Rev

Dr Anthony Thiselton, head of the Department of Theology, Nottingham University, 61; Professor Jeff Thompson, educationalist, 60; Sir Garfield Todd, former prime minister, Southern Rhodesia, 90; Professor Sir Bernard Tomlinson, pathologist, 78; Mme Simone Veil, MEP, 71.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: John Dee, scholar, mathematician and astrologer, 1527; John Clare, peasant poet, 1793; Sir George Gilbert Scott, architect, 1811; Dr Charles William Corfe, organist, 1814; Gustav Freytag, novelist and playwright, 1816; Carl Armbruster, conductor and pianist, 1846; Eugen Huber, jurist and writer, 1849; Sidney James Webb, first Baron Passfield, social reformer, 1859; Clifford Bax, playwright, 1886; Gavril Princip, assassin of Archduke Ferdinand, 1894; Sidney Blackmer, film actor, 1895; Kenneth MacKenzie Clark, first Baron Clark, art historian, 1903. Deaths: Richard Cromwell, Lord Protector of England, 1712; James Bradley, astronomer, 1762; Jean-Paul Marat, French revolutionary leader, murdered 1793; James Northcote, painter, 1831; John Charles Fremont,

explorer, 1890; Alfred Marshall, economist, 1924; Warwick Widdridge Armstrong, cricketer, 1947; Arnold Schonberg, composer, 1951; Oliver Hilary Sambourne Messel, designer, 1978; Sir Setetse Khama, president of Botswana, 1980. On this day: Christ Church, Oxford, was founded as Cardinal College by Cardinal Wolsey, 1525; the Spanish and English armies defeated the French at Gravelines, 1556; the Parliamentarians were defeated at the Battle of Devizes, 1643; Charlotte Corday murdered Jean-Paul Marat in his bath, 1793; Wordsworth wrote his "Lines" composed "Above Tintern Abbey", 1798; Queen Victoria went to live in Buckingham Palace, 1837; the Scottish Reform Act was passed, 1868; the Treaty of Berlin was signed, granting Bosnia and Herzegovina to Austria, 1878; the independence of Romania from Turkey was proclaimed, 1878; the British Bombardment of Alexandria ended, 1882; the airship R34 landed in Norfolk after returning from the US, 1919; the France II (5,806 tons), the world's largest sailing vessel, was wrecked off the coast of New Caledonia, 1922; in Germany, all political parties but the Nazis were banned, 1933; in Britain, the steel industry

was privatised, 1953; a "Live Aid" rock concert, organised by Bob Geldof and linked by television to the US, raised over £42m for African famine relief, 1985. Today is the Feast Day of Saints Bridget and Maura, St Eugenius of Carthage, St Francis Solano, St Henry the Emperor, St Mildred, and St Silas or Silvanus.

CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

The following resignations and retirements have been announced by the Church of England:

The Rev John Marshall, Rector, Finchley St Mary, London, to retire in September; The Rev Douglas Bridge-Gilly, Vicar, Whitton with Acland, Havering, to retire in June; The Rev Walter Jennings, Vicar, Cheltenham All Saints, Gloucestershire, to retire in July; The Rev John Hillman, Team Vicar, St John Baptist, Gloucestershire, to retire in July; Canon David Hoare, Vicar, Hellenes, Greece, to retire in June; The Rev Walter Jennings, Vicar, Cheltenham All Saints, Gloucestershire, to retire in July; The Rev Stephen Weston, Vicar, St John Baptist, Gloucestershire, to retire in July.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Alan Krell, "Manet and the Painters of Contemporary Life", 1pm.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries. In memoriam entries are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, funerals, forthcoming marriages, marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line. VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number.

The independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000. The OBITUARIES e-mail address is obituaries@independent.co.uk

CASE SUMMARIES

11 JULY 1998

The following notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the *All England Law Reports*.

Duty

Customs and Excise v Anchor Foods Ltd [QBD (Crown Office List) (Dyson J) 26 June 1998]. Butter to which anhydrous milk fat was introduced into the manufacturing process fell within annex I to Council Regulation (EC) 1600/95, as butter imported into the European Union from New Zealand. The product thus attracted a preferential rate of customs duty if it satisfied the tariff quota, because it was directly manufactured from milk. It was not a necessary condition of direct manufacture that the butter be transformed from milk or cream without the intervening creation of an identifiable product, since the words "manufactured directly" did not require that at one moment there was milk or cream, and that, at the next, it was butter with a direct and immediate transformation from one to the other.

Dr Paul Lask QC, Rebecca Haynes (Solicitor, Customs and Excise) for the Commissioners; David Pannick QC, Adam Lewis (Dillon Lupton Alsop) for the respondents.

VAT

Customs and Excise v Morris; QBD (Crown Office) (Moses J) 1 July 1998. "Approved alteration" in item 2, Group 8A, Sch 5 to the Value Added Tax Act 1983 was not to be construed by reference to s 7 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1967, nor by reference to reported cases in which the statutory context was different. It was important not to confuse the statutory definition of "approved" with the meaning of "alteration" for which there was no statutory definition, other than it did not include repair or maintenance. Thus, in order to decide whether works were to be zero-rated, it was necessary for a tribunal to consider

whether the works constituted alterations at all. *Melanie Hall (Solicitor Customs and Excise) for the Commissioners; the respondent did not appear and was not represented.*

Criminal law

R v Anderson; CA (Crim Div) (Hutchison LJ, Hughes J and Judge Hyam) 2 July 1998. Although it was more usual for defence counsel to make a submission of no case to answer at the close of the prosecution case, a trial judge was not precluded from entertaining and ruling upon such a submission at the close of the defence case.

Nigel Shepherd (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellant; Michael Fowler (CPS) for the Crown.

Magistrates' courts

R v Birkenhead Magistrates' Court, exp Lewis; QBD (Crim Div) (Lord Bingham CJ, Thomas J) 8 July 1998. Although courts were under great pressure to hear cases promptly and to avoid adjournments, the court's overriding duty was to make sure that justice was done to the defendant. Therefore, where an important defence witness who had made a statement and who was expected to give evidence failed to appear, and the defence solicitor had no reason to suspect that the witness would not voluntarily attend to give evidence, the justices had no effective choice but to adjourn the case until the following day.

Jason Smith (Lee Jones Toni Moran, Birkenhead) for the applicant; the respondent did not appear and was not represented.

BRITISH ACADEMY

The following elections have been announced by the British Academy:

Officers: Sir Tony Wright, President; Professor J.R. Kohn, Vice-President; Mr J.S. Fleming, Treasurer; Professor B.E. Supple, Foreign Secretary; Professor P.D. Miller, Publications Secretary; Professor R.R. Davies, Chairman of the Committee on Academy Research Projects. Fellows: Professor S. Bann (University of Kent), Modern Cultural Studies; Professor E.V. Rieu (London School of Economics), Sociology; Mr N.J. Barker (formerly British Library), Bibliography; Professor R.J. Bauckham (St Andrews University), Theology; Dr P.A. Brand (Oxford University), Law; Professor K.H. Baker (Cambridge University), Economics; Dr C.F. Burnett (Warburg Institute, London University), History.

Professor B. Buzan (University of Westminster), Political Studies; Professor P.P. Craig (Oxford University), Law; Professor R. Doyle (Oxford University), Education; Professor R.M. Dumbarton (University of Cambridge), Psychology; Professor P.E. Easterling (Cambridge University), Archaeology; Professor P.K. Edwards (Oxford University), Sociology; Professor R.C. Hammond (Oxford University), Literature; Dr E. Harris (Oxford University), Psychology; Dr G. Khan (Cambridge University), Semiotic Studies; Professor A.S. Knight (Oxford University), History; Dr E. McGlashan (Warburg Institute, London University), Art History; Professor D.I. Margand (Oxford University), Political Studies; Professor J.A. Moss (Durham University), History; Dr R. Paine (Oxford University), Ancient History; Professor M.H. Pagan (Cambridge University), Economics; Professor E.H. Reed (Leeds University), Geography; Professor R.M. Sainsbury (Oxford University), Philosophy; Professor R.J. Service (School of Slavonic

and East European Studies, London), History; Professor G. Sower (Cambridge University), Literature; Professor J.S. Vickers (Oxford University), Economics; Professor A.P. Weale (Oxford University), Political Studies; Professor A. White (University of Wales, Cardiff), Archaeology; Professor C.J. Wickham (Birmingham University), History. Senior Fellows: Dr M. Gelling (Birmingham University), Philosophy and Place-name Studies; Mrs L.M.B. Ope, Social History. Corresponding Fellows: Professor S. An (Harvard), Middle Studies; Professor D.M. Armstrong (Australia), Philosophy; Professor L.M. Cullen (Ireland), History; Professor R.M. Dixon (Australia), Linguistics; Professor R. Eriksen (Sweden), Sociology; Professor M.S. Field (USA), Economics; Professor N.D.C. Hammond (USA), Archaeology; Professor D.R. Harvey (USA), Classics; Dr J. Le Goff (France), French Literature; Professor A. Lipshart (USA), Political Studies; Dr J.K. MacGowan

(Canada), History; Professor M.H. Sahlins (USA), Anthropology; Professor L. Somlai (Hungary), Musicology; Professor B.W. Vickers (Switzerland), Literature; Professor Dr R.H. F. von Arnim (Germany), History. Honorary Fellows: Mr Lee Song Teo, Lord Rabbahat. Derek Allen Prize (in music): Dr Peter Wallis, for *Music in the English Country House, 1604-1610* (Clarendon Press, Oxford 1996). Burdett Medal for Ethical Studies: The Rev Dr Margaret Thell. Rose Mary Crawshay Prize: Dr Dr. Mary Hackett, for *Hegon's Don Juan and the Don Juan Legend* (Clarendon Press, Oxford 1997). Sir Dr. Kate Transue Prize: *Baroque Nationalism: The Romantic Novel and the British Empire* (Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey 1994). Serena Medal: Professor John Dore

ALONGSIDE "cronyism" and "lobby", a third word crept into the coverage of last week's political squabbling that deserves attention. Writing about the doings of Liddle and Draper, Boris Johnson in the *Daily Telegraph* referred to: "the New Labour lobbyists now *pullulating* around with their gold

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

pullulate, v. To *pullulate* (from the Latin *pullulus*, diminutive of *pulus*, the young of any animal) means to bud or sprout out. In biology, it

refers to reproduction by vegetative budding, as with yeast cells; in literary circles, it is used to mean term or swarm. With its similarity to the totally unrelated verb *ukulate*, meaning to screech or howl, this gives us a worthy addition to any list of collective nouns: a *pullulation* of lobbyists.

Unveiling the mystery

Egyptian women were once forced to cover their heads, now they choose to. By Judy Mabro

Seventy-five years ago, three Egyptian feminists, returning from a women's suffrage conference in Rome, removed their veils in public on Cairo station. The veil, they said, was the most serious obstacle to women being educated and playing a full role in society. Today, in a society caught between Islam and the values of the West, their granddaughters are taking up the veil in pursuit of a new Egyptian identity.

The traveller in the "women only" carriages of the Cairo metro these days is confronted with a bewildering array of dress styles: modest Western dress (jeans or skirt and blouse) with or without a headscarf; fashionable versions of the new Islamic dress, with headscarf; the traditional long dress and black wrap; plainer versions of the new Islamic dress with a head cover; and, finally, the severe, all-concealing *niqab*.

The expensive designer versions of "Islamic dress", worn in wealthy areas, are not in evidence on the metro any more than the miniskirts that are once again in fashion among wealthy young women. The latter are confined to private functions such as weddings or worn at clubs.

"Why do foreigners always want to discuss the *hijab* (the veil) when there are more important issues - poverty, illiteracy, child labour, gender inequalities and so on?" I was asked several times in Cairo. The West has been obsessed with the veil for centuries, but it is true that the *hijab* is no longer an issue? If so, why do people spend so much time discussing it? Why did the minister of education attempt to ban the wearing of veils in primary schools in 1994, and again in 1996? And why do posters urge women to cover themselves? Are they being pressured into adopting the *niqab* that has only recently come to Egypt from Saudi Arabia?

Clothes and fashion are a reflection of the cultural politics of their society, and the female body and dress are closely related to issues of national identity, cultural authenticity, political struggle and women's rights. The veil is important: it is a powerful symbol carrying widely varying messages.

The phenomenon of girls choosing to wear a form of Islamic dress, while their mothers wear Western dress, is not unique to Egypt. Asian girls in Britain have made the same choice. In Istanbul recently, while women students demonstrated against a government ban on wearing headscarves on campus, several hundred schoolteachers were under investigation for veiling in the classroom. In Germany, Canada and France, young women are wearing "Islamic" headscarves.

In the Eighties, as the Islamic influence in Egyptian daily life strengthened, several explanations for the increased use of the *hijab* were proffered; it expressed the desire to re-establish an Egyptian identity to counter Western consumerism; it was a form of protest against the government; and a sign of increasing religiosity. Women themselves, however, claimed the *hijab* was a way of avoiding male harassment in the streets and of facilitating their move into "male space" in university and the workplace - in government service and the professions, for example.

Since many of these women were often the first in their families to adopt the *hijab*, this was not a question of a "return to the veil" or a retreat from the struggle for female autonomy of their mothers' generation. The choice of whether or not to wear the veil cuts across generations and classes. Middle-class women with no financial constraints are also choosing to wear the *hijab*.

"I used to love fancy clothes and jewellery," said Naila. She is married with two children, and lives in a pleasant suburb of Cairo. She is a graduate who used to work in an office. Now she wears long clothes and a headscarf.



Their mothers may have rejected traditional dress, but for some young women, it signifies freedom

"A few years ago, I was going through a difficult period and my sister persuaded me to go along to a class on Islam being held at the local club. I agreed out of curiosity, to see whether it was all brainwashing."

What she discovered was that, despite being a Muslim, she knew nothing about Islam, and she became interested. She decided to wear the *hijab* and is happy with her decision. "I don't need fancy clothes any more," she says. "Why should I dress for other men in the street? Nobody persuaded me; I just wanted to." I asked her about her teacher at the religious group. "There is one thing she refuses to discuss and that is the *hijab*," I ask whether young girls are being pressured to wear it at school. "If they do so, it is because they like to imitate their mothers," she says. "Islam does not require girls to veil until puberty."

Her own mother, who enjoyed dressing up and going out with her daughter, was unhappy with the change in Naila. But having seen she is happy she accepts her daughter's decision. Naila is a woman who, through learning about Islam, has also learned about Egypt and the state of its poor. She works to raise money for various activities organised by religious groups, such as literacy classes, which the government is unable to provide. When she first went to the class on Islam, there were about 10 older women there each week, now about 90 women of all ages regularly go.

In a recent issue of the popular weekly *Rose el-Youssef*, an article under the headline "New

Phenomenon in Cairo: The Return of the Miniskirt in the Time of the *Niqab*" considers the changes in women's dress over the last few decades. In the late Sixties, the ubiquitous miniskirt was considered an index of the openness of society and its liberal attitudes to women's rights. Next came the *hijab*, first worn among university students and an indication of the growing Islamisation of society. The *niqab* appeared in the Nineties, with posters urging women to wear it. It was a form of political statement adopted after the Gulf War and the 1992 earthquake, and is used as such today.

"What makes a girl choose her style of dress?" asks *Rose el-Youssef*. Apart from personal and religious reasons, it can be part of a group decision, as in the case of the women known as the "earthquake generation". They took the veil immediately after the 1992 earthquake in Cairo, when it was the Islamic groups, rather than the government, that provided immediate help. Veiling became a form of political protest against the government. Some students have since adapted this dress to jeans, blouse and a scarf.

Rose el-Youssef implies that girls are free to choose, but some are freer than others. One girl says: "My father worked in Saudi and saw this as the ideal image of woman. He asked me to veil, and I did." Men increasingly stipulate that their wives must wear the *hijab*, even the *niqab*. A bride may be unable to argue about this at the time but should she later remove the veil, divorce would be instant.

Juggling the demands of daily life in a society where there is a struggle between two cultures often makes women helpless in Egypt's search for identity. One young woman in *Rose el-Youssef* describes her dilemma: "I wear the veil because my father is a *sheikh* and it is important for him that I do. But I work in a big company and I have to take off my veil in the lift every day at work." Young women who wear miniskirts say it gives them freedom, but a 20-year-old student who said she liked to dress like that because she felt like the women she sees in foreign films, has stopped wearing them because she was harassed.

Whatever style they choose, women must still be willing to dress modestly. The Sixties was a time of liberalism but the reactionary tide is dominant in Nineties Egypt. Just as debates between "new" and "old" feminism take place between the Sixties and Nineties generations in the West, young women may find their mothers' generation values irrelevant. And, unlike their grandmothers, they know that there are many obstacles other than the veil that are holding back their development.

The veil is a powerful symbol and, once taken, the decision to adopt it is hard to go back on. Perhaps the question today is not so much whether women make a free choice in wearing it, as whether they are free to discard it. This article was originally published in *Index on Censorship* (0171-278 2313; e-mail: contact@indexoncensorship.org). Website: http://www.oneworld.org/index_oc

Such a far cry from Timbuktu

IN THE STICKS

STEVIE MORGAN

LAST WEEK my best friend's husband announced that he was going to Timbuktu and never coming back. She is, apparently, too keen on the simple pleasures of life - gardens, food and clothes - to suit his tastes.

Given that it is almost exactly a year since the same thing happened to me, this event had two effects. One was an outbreak of homicidal rage - had they lived nearby, much though I love my friend's man, I'd have put him through the garden shredder, willy first. The other was a malaria-like attack of relieved grief, during which I looked at the patch of lawn I chewed the night my ex-husband left me, and decided I could not look at it any longer. I got quite hysterical about the whole thing and announced that we had to move house.

I phoned the estate agent. Within 24 hours, prospective buyers were fetching up on my doorstep. Urban refugees every one, because summer is the season when hunger wrappers strewn on Shepherds Bush Green finally break the nerve of sensible city slickers and make them believe they want to live the rural idyll. But, however starry-eyed they were with dreams out of the last issue of *Country Living*, reality seemed to disappoint them.

"It's very remote," they said fearfully. I wish! Nowhere in southern England is more remote any more. We have a saying about our county: you're never more than 20 minutes from the chance to buy a Jaeger suit. "It's very muddy!" they said. Apparently, the standard coating of London streets is preferable - used needles, regurgitated balti chicken and dog dirt.

"There's a farm next door!" they declared in horror. Yes, this is the countryside, farms are what you have next door, as opposed to superstores and howling alleys. "Do the cows make a lot of noise?" one anxious dad from Surrey asked. What do you say? "Only when they're being ritually abused?" or "Of course not. It's EC regulations: cows aren't allowed to moo these days?"

Sheep were a worry too: "Do they bleat like that all the time?" asked a skinny girl from Fulham as she minced around the garden in a long black frock, spiking my lawn with her stilettos.

"No, no! It's usually a little selection from *Costi Pan*

Tutte," I told her. I took these poor wretches around the house, and pointed out the hilltop where the roe deer sun themselves in the morning, the hedge bank where orchids grow, the oak tree where the buzzards nest. They looked at me as if I were speaking an obscure dialect of Mongolian.

It meant nothing to them. They were more familiar with the cheetahs of the Serengeti than they'd seen on TV than with the real wildlife they could see for themselves out of their own windows. If they know the word "biodiversity" at all, they think it is something to do with tropical forests and putting rhino horn in your tea, not in the same world as my English lane where, just now, there are more than 15 species of wild flowers blooming.

So, after a few days of explaining that mud is just wet soil and that we don't have to live on potatoes for more than two months of the year, I gave up. Even if they could be persuaded to buy my house they would all have had a nervous breakdown the first time next door's Friesians got through the hedge.

And anyway, where could we move to round here? There are never any houses for sale because it is so nice that nobody ever moves. Unless I take a contract out on one of my neighbours, nothing will ever come on to the market. The best I can do to avoid painful memories is plant something pretty over the offending patch of lawn. I've stopped hurrying into tears when I walk over it now anyway, so the grief attack must be subsiding.

But I still felt like giving my mate's hubby a good seeing-to with a chain-saw, so I jumped on the For Sale sign pretty vigorously when I took it down. It's a waste of effort really, because I think Timbuktu could do the job for me anyway. Give him three months of those cold desert nights, that hot Sahel wind and a Land Rover stuck in a wadi three weeks from the nearest spare part. Then I think a gal who can find Katharine Hammett shirts in the WJumble and make Raymond Blanc look like an amateur, could be something he might want to get home to.

By which time I'll have lined her up with a toy-boy millionaire and she'll be drinking Moët in a marble bath in San Tropez. Ha!

'Of course I know it's vulgar'

Continue from page 1

Animal Hospital ("I like little animals") and the occasional dip into *EastEnders* "just to see how downtrodden Wendy Richard is looking this week". His favoured daily newspaper is *The Sun*. "I don't especially care what Anthea Turner is up to, but it's terrific fun." He does not appear to be especially deep or consistent. One minute he's saying *The Sun* is brilliant, the next he is saying "bin emptiers, sewage workers, tabloid journalists, I suppose you have to have them all". His own book about his experiences, *Changing Trains*, was serialised in the *Daily Mail*. "The worst value a punter ever got, but it made an indecently large amount of money."

Oxford proved to be something of an eye-opener. "As I arrived, I watched a youth emerging from a gigantic Rolls-Royce, complete with chauffeur, who proceeded to disgorge the young master's possessions from the boot. The Louis Vuitton cases alone were more than my family home. From that moment on, I knew my life would never be the same." He was introduced to restaurants, and steak.

"Of course, I'd had steak before, but they were thin bits of steak, done to death, and grey. I'd never had big humps of steak, almost raw in the middle, and I thought: 'I'm going to do this



'I am laughably bad-looking'

William Webster

for the rest of my life." He met his wife, Vicki, in his second year. They married when he was 24 and she was 21. They married for love, he says, "although I did like the fact that her father was an admiral". He is fond of the good things in life, yes, definitely.

He won a scholarship to the Middle Temple but could not afford the pupillage, so he went into business - into car dealerships - and made a lot of money very quickly. He became a Tory because "I thought I was helping by being a taxpayer and not

things. No ideology. No didactic. Just getting things done."

Although by the mid-Eighties, he was running a VW-Audi dealership in Salisbury and driving his own Rolls-Royce, the drop in the new car market, coupled with some unfortunate investing meant "it was starting bankruptcy in the face at a certain point." To keep afloat, he had to sell off various properties. Now, he is getting on with earning money again. He seems to have his finger in quite a few pies. Just the other day he made around £300,000 from the sale of a transport company of which he is chairman. He offers me a lift back into London in his chauffeur-driven Jaguar. I accept. I'm not especially eager to prolong our time together but, let's face it, a Jag's a Jag, it has a lovely, creamy interior, and I'm impossibly shallow.

He has to get back to town to attend the Motor Transport Awards. "Already, my pulse is racing," he says. "No, no. It's an excellent event." We talk a bit about his job at the RHA, which seems to involve a lot of lobbying "like that nice Mr Draper." He doesn't think this an especially dire scandal. "It's just one boy mouthing off, isn't it?"

We part outside his Westminster office. Are you going to get the Tube now? he asks. No, I say. I'm a Jewish Princess and don't do Tubes. I only do cabs. "Quite right too!" he exclaims. He gives a big wave. The sunlight dances off his Rolex.

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

No. 003706 of 1998
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF NATIONAL BANK OF KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was presented to the High Court of Justice in the Chancery Division, on the 10th day of July 1998, in relation to the National Bank of Kuwait International PLC, a company incorporated in Kuwait, for the winding up of the said company under the provisions of the Companies Act 1985.

AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2PL, on Wednesday the 24th day of July 1998.

Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of any Order for the winding up of the said Company, or for the appointment of a liquidator, must appear at the time of hearing by person or by Counsel for that purpose. A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undersigned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 13th day of July 1998.
Richard Butler
Headley House
15 St Dunstons Street
London EC3A 7EE
Ref: M/VW/98/1584

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Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 90 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Oldfield House, Oldfield Lane, Oldfield, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 2BN on 20th July 1998 at 10.15 hours for the purposes mentioned in Section 90 of the said Act.

Terms of proof to be used at the meeting must be lodged with the company at the office of RSC, 100 St Dunstons Street, London EC3A 7EE, at least 14 days before the meeting.

Dated 6 July 1998.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
JOHN FINKEL Director

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40 years of service

Louise is holding on. But only just

The Child Support Agency was set to help lone parents like Louise Ryan. It didn't. But new reforms offer hope.
By Glenda Cooper

Five years ago, Louise Ryan's response to the news that the Child Support Agency was going to be set up, was a heartfelt "hurray". Now her feelings on the CSA are almost unprintable.

The same is true for Mike Harmon, who blames the CSA for the fact that he now has to live in a caravan, after being forced to sell his home to cope with maintenance payments.

In among all this are Louise's sons and Mike's sons and daughters, who were supposed to benefit from the CSA's inception.

Five years on, it all seems to have gone terribly wrong.

The CSA was something that everyone, in principle, agreed with. "Most people accept that you have responsibility for your children," says Maeve Sherlock, of the National Council of One-Parent Families. Its establishment was one of the last acts of Margaret Thatcher in 1990, although it did not come into being until 1993. From the start the seeds were sown for its failure.

In the first year, only £15m was paid through the child support system to the children it was meant to help, compared with more than £200m under the old court system in 1992-3. Ironically, the agency had been set up to increase the amount of maintenance paid.

But it was dogged by an increasing caseload, and a complex formula that led to CSA staff spending 90 per cent of their time on assessments and only 10 per cent on enforcement. There was also the fact that the Treasury clawed back any maintenance, pound for pound, if the lone mother was on benefit. Add to this a determined protest group, and the situation before Monday's Green Paper - more than £1.2bn in maintenance owed, fathers of more than a million children behind in their payments - could have been foreseen.

Louise's husband left her just after the birth of her second son; in the 12 years since then, she can count on her fingers the number of maintenance payments made. Her real hope for the CSA was that she could count on regular maintenance payments. "All I wanted to know was when money would be coming in." But the CSA took months to assess her case.

"I just want to have a fair settlement," she says. "People have got to accept their responsibility if they



Louise Ryan with sons Max and Christopher (left to right, above) and Mike Harmon (below) both feel they have been cheated by the Child Support Agency Paul Armiger, Tony Buckingham

have children. If he paid me half what I earn I could get off family credit and get off benefits."

"I've been dealing with the CSA for five years and I still can't get a correct assessment," says Mike Harmon, who became involved in the CSA when he split up with his wife. "I've been to three tribunal hearings, commissioners' hearings and the High Court; the parliamentary ombudsman has looked at my case. The figures just vary so much and so often."

He is expected to pay £500 a month for his two sons, which leaves him £500 to live on. "In order to comply with this I've had to move out of my home and into a caravan," he says. "They don't know what they're doing. Last year they sent me a bill for £250,000 and said I could have until I was 133 to pay it off."

David Rendel MP says that he now has a volunteer who works full-time on CSA cases. He describes the CSA's genesis as "ham-fisted". "The new system was seen as unfair and short-sighted. It didn't take into account a lot of problems for people, such as the cost of going to work or previous arrangements the parents might have had, and people weren't willing to put up with it."

Maeve Sherlock agrees: "What no one foresaw was how complex the calculations would be; how many life changes people go through, trebling the caseload."

What parents hated in particular was that for mothers on benefit, any maintenance was paid to the Treasury pound for pound, which meant there was no advantage in complying with the CSA.

"That really didn't win them any friends," says Ms Sherlock. Indeed, often there was a disadvantage because fathers no longer had the money for extras, such as treats and shoes. It was no wonder that by November 1994 one in 10 parents was refusing to co-operate with the CSA.

One of the most vocal objectors was Nacsa, the National Association for Child Support Action, made up mainly of disgruntled fathers but also mothers. They organised protests outside the CSA, targeted the media and claimed that men were being driven to kill themselves, such was their hounding.

"The Government wanted to tackle lone mothers on benefit," says Bruce Sawford. "Now you can either get them into work or off-load the problem somewhere else, and they chose the latter. That's why the



child support system was devised. I think it's outrageous. We identified 48 deaths linked to the CSA."

Their case increased as some of the more incompetent acts of the CSA came to light - the wrongful identification of fathers leading to terrible marriage strain, the agency who wrote to a father misinforming him that his son was dead, the apology to relatives of a 92-year-old

man who had been accused by the agency of fathering an eight-year-old. He had been dead for four years.

As well as these blunders, the agency simply was not doing its job. Its first chief executive left after 18 turbulent months, apologising for "unacceptable standards" and saying that she had had enough. There was critical report after critical report - by December 1995 the Com-

mons Public Accounts Committee was told that four in 10 demands issued were riddled with errors. By November 1996 the second chief executive had left.

The new Government was determined to do something about the CSA from the start. Harriet Harman, Social Security Secretary, announced within two months of taking office that new goals would be set, and Frank Field promised a flat rate of maintenance as early as February this year.

Last week's announcement was intended to untangle the mess - a flat rate of 15 per cent for one child rising to 25 for three or more - so that everyone knows where they are and, crucially, the £10 maintenance disregard so mothers on benefit can keep some of the money their partners pay. "Our reform of child support involves replacing the Byzantine complexity of the current formula with a simple percentage," said Ms Harman, adding that the aim of the overhaul was to make "more fathers pay, not fathers pay more". The DSS said that three quarters of lone mothers and 70 per cent of fathers will be better off.

An initial assessment will be done over the telephone, followed by a review if there are queries. If either parent wants to challenge the assessment, the case will be looked at by an independent tribunal.

But will it work? Maeve Sherlock is enthusiastic. "We're still working out the figures but certainly mothers on income support are beneficiaries and 75 per cent of CSA clients are mothers on income support. The need to make more fathers pay is crucial to the success of the new system."

Louise is pleased with the benefit disregard: "A sum of £10 makes a significant difference. You forget how much it does when you're not on that income."

Mike just wants to see that everything is done "more simply, quickly and easily" but David Rendel thinks that the new Green Paper may be doomed to make the mistakes of the present CSA. "I think it's full of holes," he said. "Their rigid formula will work fairly for only a small minority of cases."

"They are in danger of creating a top-heavy system. The inflexibility of the formula will effectively channel almost everyone into tribunals. They are risking repetition of the familiar delays, backlogs and unfairness which plagued the CSA."

Guardian Angels: the new buddies of suburbia

When a quiet estate in Enfield is targeted by arsonists, who are they going to call? By Julie Wheelwright

AT FIRST glance, the Cowper Gardens Estate in Enfield is the picture of pastoral suburbia. The Seventies' low and high-rise estate lies surrounded by oak and plane trees, green fields and white-washed semi. On a summer evening, lanky teenagers take turns shooting hoops on the freshly painted basketball court, while couples look on or snog openly on park benches and parents walk dogs a glance away.

But residents at Shepcot House, a council block on the estate, do not subscribe to the image of pastoral peace. Fearing for their safety after 13 arson attacks since last November, they have recruited the Guardian Angels community safety group to patrol their estate.

The Guardian Angels arrived in England from New York in 1989 and their 80 chapters in London, Manchester and Nottingham spend their time riding trains and patrolling trouble spots. Richard Hoseasons, UK co-ordinator for the Guardian Angels, is on patrol at the Cowper Gardens Estate tonight. He arrives at the flat of Oliver Dines, head of the Shepcot Residents' Security Association, ready for action in his Angels' uniform of green trousers, white sweatshirt and trademark red beret. "The primary role is deterrence, because being uniformed is enough," says Mr Hoseasons. "I haven't noticed any incidents in the two weeks we've been here. It's softly-softly."

But Mr Hoseasons does not see the Angels filling a gap left by the local council or the police. And although Enfield council has now

agreed to install a CCTV surveillance system at Shepcot House, residents want the Angels present until the £55,000 cameras are in operation, which may take several weeks. In the meantime, many claim they feel so intimidated by teenage gangs that they refuse to leave their flats or let their children walk to the local shops.

Since July 1997, the area housing committee has received reports of cars abandoned on the estate, systematically stripped, vandalised and set on fire. Last November, small petrol bombs were thrown on a road near the playground and eggs hurled at cars, people and buildings. Youths have also repeatedly broken into Shepcot House itself. Last summer, the basement was used as drug den. The most recent incident involved youths kicking a flaming, petrol-filled football around the estate's playing field.

Catching the troublemakers, however, is difficult because residents are convinced the vandals aren't from the estate itself. "We know all the children and the parents in this building and it's not them," says Denise New, a single mother and resident of Shepcot House.

But there have also been "teenage thugs" hanging around, smoking drugs on the ground floor. "You don't say things to three lads

who are all bigger than you are when you've got your four-year-old with you," says Ms New. The succession of 13 rubbish fires between February and April has given her sleepless nights, worried about the effects of smoke on her daughter's asthma.

Other parents have also noticed the damaging effects of fire on their children's health. Mark Clare, a security guard who lives on the ground floor at Shepcot House with his wife and 19-month-old daughter Hayley, says they have been particularly hard-hit.

Hayley was born with an improperly formed jaw, has a restricted airway and must be fed through a tube. Rubbish fires lit regularly underneath the Clares' flat earlier this year have worsened her breathing problems. "It's bloody ludicrous," says Mr Clare. "Now my wife Denise is afraid to go out; she's like a prisoner in her own home."

Perhaps most disturbing, however, was an incident last May when gunshots were fired on the estate. "The gunshots woke everyone up," says Dines, who lives on the seventh floor. About 23 minutes after dialling 999 he heard cars about a mile away. Then I went down and walked across the car park. I heard a police siren and then I realised they'd surrounded the estate."

But Mr Dines says the police took too long to respond to the initial call and residents were terrified. In response to such incidents, Mr Dines, a university student and Tony Louis, another Shepcot House resident, take turns patrolling the estate at night to assuage fears. They claim their presence has helped to deter the arsonists and there hasn't been a fire since 25 April. They have also established a Night Service for anxious residents, "to reassure any resident that feels they are in physical danger from yobs, arsonists or fire". The men are always at the end of a mobile telephone.

However, Lyn Romain, chair of the area housing committee, remains convinced the recent downturn in crime is because of the police doing their job. "We don't need interim security measures so that we can apprehend people," she says. "We have been very quick about getting things done given that this is a local authority. We have moved mountains to ensure there will be the type of monitoring we want."

Ms Romain is equally adamant that the offenders will be brought to justice. "I have a burning hatred of injustice and bullying," she says. She hopes the CCTV cameras will help the police to apprehend the estate's "yobs" and remains unconvinced that the Guardian Angels are needed. Meanwhile, Mr Dines says patrolling the estate is too much work for he and Mr Louis alone, and the Angels' presence will continue along with the media campaign for interim security.

By 10pm, the basketball players



Guardian Angel Richard Hoseasons surveys the Cowper Garden Estate Glynn Griffiths

and kids have melted into the night and only the Angels remain to dunk a bright orange ball through the hoop. "This is a nice playground but there's no youth club, no permanent supervision," says Mr Hoseasons. "This area had become a cross-point for a series of local gangs. But the kids here don't have a bad deal compared to estates in Southwark or Hackney." Mr Hoseasons should know as a local boy who grew up here and attended Enfield Grammar.

Meanwhile, a crowd of mothers has gathered on the tarmac and Linda Chapman, who has lived on the estate for 13 years, wants a word. "I think this is all blown out of proportion because this is a really good estate," she says. "It's been really upsetting when we read every week in

the local paper things like 'residents fear for their lives' - I mean, who do they think they're kidding?" The estate is so safe, Ms Chapman says, she can take out her rubbish late at night dressed only in her nightgown and slippers.

Wendy Smith, a mother of three

who also lives at Coverack House, agrees. "The kids around here aren't as bad as they're painted to be." Then she adds, levelling her gaze at Mr Hoseasons, "We don't want to be rude, but the Guardian Angels should go somewhere else where they're really needed."

CORRECTION

In an article about artists' warehouses in Shoreditch (9 July) it was incorrectly stated that the architectural designer Andrew Waugh had been evicted from the warehouse he shared with friends, and that the landlord had offered it to

the Prince of Wales School of Architecture for £3.5m. We have been asked to make it clear that the tenants were not evicted but left by agreement, and that the real figure under negotiation is much lower.

FAIRWAY ROMANCE

0800 216 334

What can I do now, Mummy?

Now the holidays are here, why not let your children play outside on their own? By Caroline Millar

"I'M SO BORED," my son said, kicking his football aimlessly. "I'M SO BORED," he repeated, whacking each syllable home against the battered front door. My daughter was sitting stupefied in front of the *SpiceWorld* video. I looked at them and felt like crying.

We know all the reasons why we do not let our kids play outside on their own. And we are aware of the effect on their lives. A recent study showed that children get less than half an hour's exercise a day. Obviously they suffer, becoming increasingly ratty as the summer progresses. What is harder to admit is that their parents suffer too.

Of course, we are all meant to love every moment we spend with our families. But when every waking moment does mean every waking moment, it is a different story. Is it really so satisfying for parents to find themselves their children's summertime jailers? We may run a liberal regime, with constant outings, but we cannot forget that we must never let our children out of sight.

Last summer, it all came to a head for us. My son wanted to play outside on his own. I'd explained why he couldn't. There were too many cars, he was only seven, he might meet a nasty man. It was hard not to feel sorry for him, virtually imprisoned in his own house. But some mornings the person I felt sorry for was myself, desperate to get on with my own work. I did not want to organise a trip to the park, I wanted Thomas to go away and play but I didn't dare let him out to do it. I felt it was my responsibility to amuse my children. After all, it was my fears that were keeping them inside. Each time they gazed longingly at the street, I would think of distractions. And I hated it.

During the summer holidays, each day presents a space to be filled. Football classes are booked,

ballet clubs are investigated. There is a constant minut of teas to arrange, videos and computer games to be swapped. Sometimes the whole relentless pointlessness of it made me sick with resentment.

Ken Brown, a spokesman for Parent Network, accepts that some parents find the holidays a difficult time. "For some families there will be a sense of being cooped up, but others will feel wonderful that they've got their children there for six weeks to do something positive and spend quality time with them."

There must be parents who do not mind the constant string of bogey jokes, but I am not one of them. I remember one day pushing my daughter on the swings. Other parents were coaxing their children on to the climbing frames. At the other end of the park my partner was pretending to lose at football to a gaggle of small boys. And suddenly it struck me. Our faces were set, and the only time we moved with any enthusiasm was to look at our watches. Despite the idyllic scene, most of us were bored witless.

Thirty years ago, our parents would probably have left their children to their own devices for half an hour. We dare not do that. And because we feel so guilty about keeping our kids on a tight leash, we make ourselves miserable.

A friend of mine went to the local GP because she felt so depressed. The doctor told her: "Summer holidays are coming up, and most mothers would love a prescription for Prozac to see them through."

He is right. In the dog days of late August, I have seen eggable women crack when faced with yet another week of amusing the kids. When your daughter whines for the 10th time that morning that she doesn't know what to do, you can end up feeling pretty inadequate. You have not one idea in your head of an amus-



Having to supervise children constantly can be wearing for them, and extremely boring for their parents

Aper

ing activity, ergo, you must be a terrible parent. And so, defeated, you head for the nearest McDonald's.

Of course, many mothers work now. But it seems as though we see much more of our children in the holidays than our mothers did. I remember my own mother digging the garden during the summer holidays, painting, and reading. It would not have occurred to her that she needed to watch us constantly. Our street was full of large families and the children swarmed from house to house for cricket matches and mock fights round the cul-de-sac.

Read *Just William*, as my son has, and you get an impression of the gloriously unplanned days that children used to enjoy. It may be just fic-

tion, but my children are entranced by the freedom of *William and the Outlaws*. And it was freedom for parents, too. Mr and Mrs Brown have cups of tea together, uninterrupted by bored children arguing. Possibly, they even had time for a sex life.

Maybe it was that prospect of having a little more time to ourselves, but last summer we eventually gave in and allowed our son to play on the street. Inevitably, that meant his younger sister too. I have to say that we made the decision not just for them, but for us too. At last we can sit and talk together as adults, read the paper, listen to the radio. And because of that, we have started to enjoy being with our children again. We still get twinges of concern

whenever we hear of a child being run over, or a paedophile looking for suitable accommodation. I still feel that it is a decision we have taken against our better instincts. But the strain of not doing so was simply too great to continue.

Ken Brown believes that some parents are needlessly concerned. "It's like being scared of spiders. You can express that fear for your children in terms such as: 'They're going to be accosted, taken off, run over'. This may not reflect the real risks and in that sense one is going into irrational behaviour."

While parents must decide for themselves what degree of freedom is appropriate, Brown says they should not feel responsible for

providing entertainment. "If a child is sitting there saying 'I'm bored, amuse me', that's fine. But as the child gets older, he should take more responsibility for amusing himself. Parents are not just slaves to their children - they have to consider their own needs."

Naomi Atsmanink, a teacher, decided to allow her son Luke out to play around the time he went to secondary school.

"It has been a relief," she says. "At one point yesterday, we found ourselves sitting on our own. We'd been out with the children, and had come home, and then both Luke and Emma had gone out." She says that their children's growing independence has been good for her and

her husband. "It's very nice, because we've ended up getting more of a life for ourselves."

When the children were younger, constant supervision was a strain. "It meant that one or both of us would end up with a trail of friends going to the park or going swimming and I'd be thinking, 'Why do we have to organise everything?' And while she continues to take her children to clubs, she believes that some freedom helps everyone. "We can't amuse our children 18 hours a day, and I don't think we should... Our children have a right to some space outside, just like the rest of us."

Parent Network (0171-735 1214) runs courses for parents throughout the UK

Don't let vegetables get the better of you

The end of mealtime battles over green veg may be in sight. And it doesn't involve chocolate-coated carrots. By Joanna Moorhead

WE HAVE tried smothering them in cheese sauce, smuggling them into pies, hiding them in casseroles. But no disguise seems to work. Show my four-year-old daughter Elinor a vegetable, or even a whiff of one, in any dish you could name, and the response is always the same: "Yuk! I'm not eating that, Mummy." No sanction can get her to change her mind. Never mind that pudding will be withheld or ice lollies cancelled, or that there will be nothing else until breakfast. Greens do not get a look in as far as her diet is concerned.

As time goes by, I am becoming increasingly desperate - and according to nutritionists, I am not alone. Surveys show that many small children are faddy eaters, but while I realise it is important not to get anxious, I also know that eating vegetables does matter.

As Amanda Wynne of the British Nutrition Foundation points out, it is not just that vegetables provide the essential vitamins and minerals that do all sorts of good things. It is also that the little girl who eats her greens today is the woman who eats her greens tomorrow. "Current

advice is to eat at least five portions of vegetables or fruit a day, and we know many people aren't meeting that target," says Ms Wynne. "If you can instigate it when children are very young, the chances are that they'll continue to eat a healthy amount of vegetables into adulthood." She agrees that turning meal times into a battleground is not the answer. So what is?

Supplements can go some way to make up a shortfall of vitamins and minerals, but most nutritionists believe that nothing beats a well balanced diet. Which is where Michael Bowdery and a team of psychologists at the University of Wales in Bangor come in. Their recently published research offers parents like me a glimmer of hope.

Bowdery and his colleagues have spent the last six years trying to find a way of getting children to eat fruit and vegetables, and they have hit on a formula that has brought astonishing results. More than 200 children aged between two and seven were shown videos chronicling the adventures of some streetwise kids called the Food Dudes,

who are locked in combat with the wicked General Junk and his Junk Food Junta. It is an exciting story, with a message.

Here's the lowdown on the plot: General Junk is trying to take over the world, and his main weapon is tricking children into eating unhealthy food. But the Food Dudes stuff themselves with fruit and veg to keep their "life force" strong, enabling them to outwit the baddies.

At the end of the film, our heroes implore children everywhere to join the fight, and stickers and other small rewards are offered to those who help themselves to a tray of fruit and vegetables. And the amazing thing is that these tactics work. "The results have been quite staggering," says Bowdery. "We hadn't been expecting a behaviour change that was quite so marked."

The programme works by making fruit and vegetables available in the school or nursery a few weeks before the video is shown. From the time the video was seen by the children, fruit and vegetable consumption went up from 35 per cent of what they were offered, to

70 per cent. Home-based studies of children known to be "faddy" eaters saw fruit consumption rise from 4 per cent of what was offered to 100 per cent after a video encounter with General Junk.

What is more, this improvement in eating habits was sustained. Children at home who ate more fruit after watching the video were still eating similarly high levels six months later. "The point is to introduce children to the food, and then to develop a liking for it," explains Bowdery. So successful have his team been that they are now looking at making the video more widely available in schools and nurseries.

In one sense, the Bangor team's results are worrying, because their techniques mirror those used every day by commercial television advertisers. No parent who has ever been faced with a plea to "get us X sweets" by a child who has seen it on the telly will doubt the power of TV advertising. This research clearly shows how strong the message can be. But when it comes to greens, it certainly beats tearful meal-time stand-offs over Brussels sprouts.



Elinor, four, remains unconvinced by broccoli's healthy image

Glynn Griffiths

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Why bother to tie the knot?

The stigma
of illegitimacy
no longer roubles
unmarried
parents. Is this
the end for
marriage?

By Genevieve Fox

WHEN 33-year-old Sally Millard told her mother she was pregnant by her fairly new boyfriend, Jo Broughton, aged 39, she knew the hives would be unleashed. In her mother's opinion, marriage preceded babies, not vice versa. A steady barrage of loaded comments and the repetition of "Has he got the Q yet, darling?" duly followed.

As the high approached, gentle probing turned to panic. One day Mrs Millard rang up her daughter and asked, "How would you have felt growing up if you'd known your father was not your legal father?"

Sally Millard's partner, Joe Broughton, whose son is now a year old, feels absolutely no compulsion to get married. He dismisses his would-be mother-in-law's stident views as an irrelevance.

When she rang up about the legal fatherhood issue it made me dig my heels in even more," he says. "Once the baby is there people see you as a family anyway, whether they like it or not. It's hard not to, when you are functioning as a family."

"I don't think that the marriage certificate is any real signal of a committed and loving relationship. It can be, but not necessarily. Children derive their security from much more complicated factors, including what they see day to day and the way they are encouraged to interpret that."

"I clearly remember going to weddings as a child where the bride was pregnant. There was a sense that the couple didn't get married because they loved each other, but they wanted to make a public statement that they wanted to spend the rest of their lives together, but because they had to. It seemed to me more demeaning of marriage to marry because the woman is pregnant than not to."

The fact that Sally is pregnant early in our relationship would only enforce the feeling of self-inflicted hotgun wedding."

Given that Sally has already had a short-lived, heart-breaking marriage, her mother's desire for her to get hitched seems particularly misplaced. What is Mrs Millard most concerned about? Her grandson's social status, her daughter's happiness, or her own social status?

While Mrs Millard's reaction to the birth of an illegitimate grandchild is keeping with her generation's unimpeachable values, it is out of sync with many of today's young unmarried parents. According to a new report from the Office of National Statistics, the overall proportion of children born out of wedlock in England and Wales rose by 2 per cent to almost 10 per cent in 1996, the majority of them to parents whose in stable relationships.

Meanwhile, between 1986 and 1994 the number of cohabiting



Not even pressure from grandparents can persuade couples to wear that plain gold band when they start having children

Brian Harris

couples with children increased by 6 per cent, while the number of married couples fell by 12 per cent.

The highest proportion of unmarried parents is found in Knowsley, a borough of Merseyside and officially one of the poorest areas of Europe, where nearly 60 per cent of all children were born outside marriage. At the other extreme, at 17 per cent, is Richmond, North Yorkshire, which is what we would expect of William Hague's well-heeled constituency.

Babies and marriage no longer go together like horses and carriages. Many middle-class cohabiting couples in their thirties are as free of the stigma of illegitimacy as are Knowsley's single mothers, though the social factors in each case are very different. For middle-class parents in long-term, committed relationships, the social structure of marriage is increasingly seen as either low priority, or irrelevant.

Even some Church of England circles now acknowledge that a growing number of couples decide

to marry after having had children. Last week Margaret Baxter, who trains priests, called for the marriage service to be updated to take account of this social shift. Her proposal was met with applause.

"I think I touched a chord," says Baxter. "Society has changed such a lot and many people of my generation have offspring who are living together and have children. The situation touches all our families."

Taking account of these social changes, earlier this month it was decided that men who father children outside marriage are to be given the same parental rights as married fathers, reducing the need for couples to marry at all. But, according to Patricia Morgan, senior research fellow at the Institute of Economic Affairs, "cohabiting couples with children still break up at between double and four times the rate of married couples with children. The tendency is also for cohabiting couples with children to break up earlier in the child's life."

While such figures may be glist

to the mill of the conservative pro-marriage lobby, the consciences of many of today's unmarried parents are guilt-free. Invariably they avoid mixing in circles where they or their children would be turned into social pariahs; and they can be as-

'Going to weddings as a child when the bride was pregnant, there was a sense that the couple hadn't got married because they loved each other'

sured that their children will not be taunted in the playground with the term "bastard" or any modern equivalent, since none exists.

"As a term describing an illegitimate person, 'bastard' is virtually

dead," explains John Ayto, editor of the new *Oxford Dictionary of Slang*, "even in its alternative pronunciation. The distinction used to be made between 'bastard' as an insult and 'bastard' (pronounced 'bastard') to describe an illegitimate child."

"Its original meaning is taboo nowadays. The *Fifties* were probably the last decade in which people felt comfortable using the term in an unconscious way. Using the word today reminds one of the days when illegitimacy was taboo, making its usage a double taboo. It is no longer politically correct to think of illegitimacy as unacceptable."

Certainly not, and, when you consider its semantic origins, you would not dream of doing so. "Bastard" is derived from the Old French word *bast*, for the pack-saddle used by muleteers which doubled up as a bed, the same bed on which illegitimate midnight babies would be made, presumably by the light of the silvery moon. It sounds like a modern-day adventure holiday, for which you pay hundreds of pounds

for the privilege of sleeping out under the stars. Jules Verne, eat your heart out.

But if the younger generation is increasingly turning away from marriage, a sense of propriety and resistance to social change still generate intolerance among many grandparents. Jane Gloucester, 33, a casting director, decided to marry when her daughters were aged four and one. She recalls the pressure her own mother, the widow of an army major, suffered as a result of her having had children before getting married.

"It was embarrassing for her with her friends. They were shocked that we weren't married. One family friend said to her, 'If John (Jane's father) were alive he wouldn't allow this to happen.' Although my mother didn't put any pressure on us to marry, there was an understanding that it upset her."

When Jane and her partner David, 39, a writer, did decide to marry, they encountered pressure of a different kind, this time from

their own contemporaries, many of whom are unmarried parents. "Our friends were really surprised. Their reaction was, 'Well, why are you getting married?'" which I found quite hard to answer.

"For us, getting married meant making a public declaration of our happiness about our family and each other and saying, 'This is our family unit and we intend to keep it.' I never felt any stigma about us being unmarried, nor was I fearful about our children being teased or harmed in any way. I never felt dirty about having our children out of wedlock."

"I think our decision to marry was linked to our need, as a species, to celebrate in groups. As non-church-going Christians, we have no forum to gather together and make public statements. The ceremonial aspect was very important for me. I also believe that it is somehow ingrained in us that marriage is the way to live, however non-conformist we are, even though it has been proved that it doesn't always work."

A FAMILY AFFAIR

THIS WEEK: TWO BROTHERS TALK ABOUT JOINING FORCES AS CHILDREN TO WALLOP A SPOILED PLAYMATE

'I don't think there was any sibling rivalry involved - it was pure greed'

artists and brothers Jake Chapman, 31, and Dinos, 3, both studied at the Royal College of Art. At a Royal Academy's 'Innovation' exhibition one of their works, child annequins with perles for noses and anuses for mouths, was put in an enclosure for viewing by adults only. As young boys they were teased by an incident involving an egg sandwich.

INOS CHAPMAN: When Jake was three and I was about nine, a family friend came to stay. He'd bought his son an egg sandwich and we shared a one together. One night we were fast asleep and the door opened quietly. Max's father walked in and gave Max an egg sandwich. It wasn't as if we'd just got to sleep, it was just later - that seemed a really weird thing to do.

Obviously his dad thought he didn't been fed adequately. Immediately Jake and I felt this heightened sense of outrage and thought, 'he's been given a

sandwich and we haven't. He could have brought three.' What followed was a scuffle for the sandwich - it was absolutely spontaneous.

Jake had Max in the corner of the room and I was standing close to the door to make sure no adults were walking past. My involvement in it was as an observer and lookout.

The amazing thing is it was all carried out so silently. It was all understood that something was very wrong. Visually it was very memorable, even though it was so silly.

We both questioned the fairness of not having a sandwich along with Max. As children it seemed absolutely rational at the time - at that young age you do have an innate need for fairness.

Jake and I have always stuck up for each other and we do have a heightened sense of loyalty. I think brothers do stick up for each other - we're exactly the same with our elder sister. I'm more surprised about brothers and sisters who aren't that close. It's genetic - about protecting the gene pool.

There is a similar sense of loyalty working together as well. We try not to be hierarchical. It's an extension of our sibling relationship - we've just extended our childhood into work. All Jake and I have done is stay in close contact for the last 30 years. But we do experience sibling rivalry too - I'd say we're boringly normal brothers.

We don't work as one, though. We haven't chosen to be a single unit. Our work isn't autobiographical - it's not about us.

If we knew each other less well, it would be more difficult working with each other. We're very harsh with each other.

In terms of the sandwich memory, I'm sure every sibling can tell a similar story - it was one of those incidents that children never tell their parents about.

Funnily enough in the last two years, we've bumped into Max and talked about it - he designs furniture now. The story cropped up recently again - with siblings you do tend to re-run funny situations from

the past. You've got nothing else to talk about really. But it was a strange episode because nothing was said - it was a silent, midnight flurry.

JAKE CHAPMAN:

I was quite small at the time and my memory is of bashing Max's head on the toybox. His father crept in like Nosferatu with this egg sandwich - I can still smell it. It was pure sandwich envy.

Dinos and my sister spurred me on to do something - they thought I was the one who could get away with it. So I climbed down from my bunk bed and struggled for the sandwich. I don't think I got hold of it but I know Max got a good pasting. And I know I won. There wasn't any crying. I do remember all the parents coming in en masse at some point and telling me off.

I also remember the incident as a high point - the rest of our life was so pre-eminently normal. I tend not to remember too many things that happened to me as a child. I

think having childhood memories and being an adult means they are usually distorted or at least idealised. I don't like that melancholy nostalgia of, 'do you remember the times when we were kids...' - that doesn't come into it with Dinos. I totally disagree with him that we've got nothing else to talk about but these things. I think there's far more to talk about in the present.

We did bump into Max recently and I thought he was as spoilt now as he was then. I don't think there was any sort of sibling loyalty involved - it was just pure greed.

Also I don't think that working together is an extension of our childhood. It's convenient; I think there's a similarity of work interests more than genetics. Saying that, our working relationship is based on irritating the other to come up with better ideas; because we're related it legitimises the extent to which our hostility can go.



Interviews by Emma Cook Jake and Dinos Chapman: genetic loyalty

Nicola Kurtz

Dying of Hirst? Pass the Andrews

As art's New Neurotics prepare to fill the post-Sensation void, what is tomorrow's Britpack up to?

Jay Merrick visited the degree shows

Charles Saatchi's launch of the "The New Neurotic Realism", a clutch of anxious anxieties whose works of art will be premiered next January, means the new fix is in. If you were smacked out by "Sensation" and Damien Hirst and the rest of the Brit pack, get ready for a different brand; punters are going to be Pepsi Maxed by a posse including Ron Mueck, Tom Hunter and Nicky Hobermann. What Saatchi doesn't realise is that Max Andrews couldn't care less. He's got a McGuffin and he's going to use it.

Andrews, a final-year student in critical fine art practice at the University of Brighton, may be speaking for a sizeable tranche of tyros scrambling to mount their degree shows all over Britain. "Sensation"? "It was never a movement," he says. "They've got nothing in common except that all their work can be reduced to one-liners and sucked into a promotion machine; churning out acts that fit a certain mould."

A random trawl through the work of final-year students at Brighton, Camberwell and the Royal Academy reveals a spattered canvas of coincidentally thematic trends, technical purism and violent scattergun objection that seems light years away from the laser-sharp groove cut by the established Brit pack.

Andrews despises what he sees as a dumbing down of aspiration by "throwaway gestures" and wants art "back into the laboratory, force it to be detailed. It can do a lot of things, but you need to set up your ground."

Andrews' skewering takes on the art scene - *Avant Garde World*, a proposed chain of theme pubs - raises the question that must haunt all manipulators of taste: who, or what, is informing and driving the work of young artists?

Andrews' utter otherness of purpose has an irresistible charm riddled with killing funny and highly abstruse jokes. His degree material includes a plastic decoy pigeon painted in primary colours

that was temporarily fixed to the exterior of the Van Gogh museum in Amsterdam; a series of perfectly fabricated direction signs pointing the way to a crash site; and various objects "that take you through a story like the watch in Hitchcock's *Strangers on a Train*".

Andrews is therefore into what the director calls McGuffins: "Betroplasm; like ectoplasm but it doesn't need a subject - it comes out of a floating history rather than cause and effect. I wanted to get away from the idea that text explains objects."

The eccentric cat's cradle of his rationale puts him in the same interzone that has been populated by Frank Zappa, William Burroughs and Ken Kesey's Merry Pranksters. The results can be marvellous: learned speculations about bogus cocktails called Absinthe in the Wind; washed out shots of Andrews in a Ganzfeld sensory deprivation chamber wearing half ping pong balls over his eyes; and the deliciously cunning remark that the radar profile of the "baroque" F117 Nighthawk stealth aircraft "is equivalent to an object the size of a cocktail cherry".

Rachel Lumsden, who concludes her MA at the Royal Academy in July, works large canvases that confront death, childhood and "remembered spaces". They offer veil upon veil of paint; a kind of aurora borealis of colour so thin in places as to seem like watermarks over mysterious, heavily worked central images: a chest of drawers, a Darth Vader-like figure looming like death or a loved father locked in a dark room.

But is Lumsden a New Neurotic? Not quite. Obsessive may be the operative word, though hers is a delicate obsession, preserving the complexity of memory by "not looking at it all on". Lumsden's work carries the faint tensions of a meniscus - one touch too many and it could rupture into heretofore anguish.

This febrile territory is also inhabited by Andrew Olsen at Brighton, whose slo-mo videos of facial close-ups from the Rikiki Lake



Rachel Lumsden confronts death, childhood and 'remembered spaces' with her large, variegated canvases Nicola Kurtz

TV show seek to re-claim "the territory of history" from the tube by examining dislocations of meaning. Chris Rowley, also at Brighton, produces confessional screen prints; degraded, fraying images from snapshots; his crotch; his face overlaid with detox medication records; a quite riveting retinal flash-over image of him, at ten, on a beach in Sierra Leone. And at Camberwell, Eammon Maxwell's jet-black obelisks deliver a goth vibe that segues shily into "the moon was a drip on a dark hood", the classic

mains perfectly focused: "I think there's still a lot more to be done with painting," she says. Skills have "always been neglected. I'm still interested in the tradition of painting - the formal issues".

They are the same issues that inform the large and quite beautifully finished paintings of Yoshi Yamase at Camberwell College, which celebrates its centenary this year. His is a self-proscribed formality based on an interest in "static human thought and representations of nature". He works only with cyan, magenta, yel-

low, and black to produce criss-crossing grids of colour or duo-chrome that throw up highly engaging bleeds and gradations of colours and densities.

At Brighton, this same highly finished approach can be seen in the precisely incomplete images of Kevin Rice and the layer-on-layer screen prints by Elizabeth Haven; precise blocks of carefully overlapping colour that infer symbolic seascapes - navigation in the dark is the motif. "I thought 'Sensation

was dreadful," she says. "So cross, the tradition of the avant garde that has to be so outrageous. What next - a snuff video? I suppose that's what pulls the punters."

What hope, then, for Max Andrews' plea to put art "back into the laboratory"? As it happens, strangeness abounds at every turn. Camberwell's Anna Ricketts is interested in what might be called the pre-formal. She is a neo-alchemist of sorts, trading in "regular Platonic solids" that turn out to be geometric ingots made of cast aluminium. "I'm trying to find a new way of interpreting the connection between philosophy, science and art." The grist to her mill includes Pythagoras and Fibonacci numbers.

A few yards away from Ricketts' kiln, the only number Kate Brundrett is interested in is 11, because she wants to score. Or her dwellings do, anyway. Detached from neurosis - "I don't give a damn about 'Sensation', I feel removed from all that" - her 11 life-sized Subuteo footballer figures in aluminium outlines set into hemispherical cement bases are either strangely simple, or simply strange. Clustered together and properly lit, they will glint with a sharp, transformational ambiguity: a simple idea that generates complex spatial and graphic ramifications. Warning: if observed while under the influence of the infamous

Camberwell Carrot, terminal derangement may result. At the RA, Gerwyn Havard says he never recovered from reading Alan Garner's sci-fi novel *Red Shift* when he was a boy. "Time standing still, emotional shockwaves, connecting people through time," he muses. "You momentarily create this construction of emotion. I'm interested in things still being there after they've disappeared. He has created strange peepshows - a pattern of burned out sparklers, for example - and a stop-frame video to show a house of hound degrading in woods over time, then re-forming."

Tucked away a floor above, Simon Haddock takes a more obviously intellectual line. "I think painting's going to have a new kind of currency," he says. "Using real space, not fictive space. It should be exploring the experience of modernity, a non-ironic direct experience."

Haddock's powerful work focuses on motorways. "You pass down a motorway and you're not in one place and you're not in another," he says. "How do we perceive our boundaries and these tremendous shapes and spaces that we hardly notice? Roman sarcophagi of motorway spaces?" His paintings and tile-and-paint sculptures presage further interesting developments.

Never mind the Neurotics, eh? Have a McGuffin.

'Sensation was never a movement - their work can be reduced to one-liners and sucked into a promotion machine'

opening line of Captain Beefheart's "I'm Gonna Boogie You Baby". Conjunctions of intent or style, even in a fine art school as small and intimate as the RA's, seem out of the question. At the painterly end of the greasy pole, Simon McWilliams' odd, impressionistic oils are already selling nicely, while Alison Mill's wonderful river views - the oil worked lushly to create subtle but resonant images - is probably too quietly classical to be slipped into Papa Saatchi's brand new bag. But she re-

low, and black to produce criss-crossing grids of colour or duo-chrome that throw up highly engaging bleeds and gradations of colours and densities.

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Bitter laughs in Lost Souls-by-the-Sea

AFTER FORAYING into the wilds of W12 with his last endeavour at The Bush, Goldhawk Road, Simon Bent has returned his dramatic attention to his native Scarborough, a locale which the well-received *Bad Company* suggested offered ample funds from which to draw a distinctively sour and off-beat kind of comedy.

Sugar Sugar again homes in on those for whom the town is an all-year-round prison sentence, rather than a tourist attraction. In Paul Miller's astute production, meticulously acted by a cast of TV luminaries, you can almost hear lives crumble as audibly as a stick of rock

THEATRE
SUGAR SUGAR
BUSH THEATRE
LONDON

inside a small child's mouth. The elaborately constructed inaction takes place in the breakfast room of a guest house run, or rather run down, by the loudly despairing Val (shortly presumably, for the valium we sense keeps her sane). The state of the place - stray wiring poking through wallpaper-deprived walls, undermatting instead of carpet, a forlorn-looking ladder - speaks

instantly of broken lives clinging to the hope of some endlessly deferred make-over.

Bent is interested in this ambience of seaside tristesse for its comic potential as much as anything, the way the characters fail fully to confront or even describe the mess they have made of things. So we find Val (magnificently prying Sue Johnston) diverting herself from her age, her bigoted brother Len - with whom she enjoys bickering, almost maritally bad tempered relationship - and her tarty daughter Shirley (Deborah McAndrew) by seeking to seduce her guest the enigmatic

continually thirsty Mr Wilson, an off-season gardener. Into the midst of this den of frustrated iniquity arrives her embittered son Joe (Andrew Lincoln, making his first venture on to the stage after *This Life*). Bent squeezes an almost impossible number of bizarre exchanges out of the character clashes without quite overdoing it, with each often pursuing their own line of thought irrespective of the previous remark.

There are times when Bent seems too intent on extracting comedy from these lost souls. For example, the poignancy of Val's forgetfulness is undercut by the revelation that her mother once landed a bread knife in her head. And likewise, the final scene, where Joe's un-reconstructed lad of a friend Steven pours his heart out to Mr Wilson with egg yolk dripping from his hair, diminishes the sense of fingers slipping from the cliff edge.

Nevertheless, *Sugar Sugar* confirms Bent's ability as a writer with an uncanny ability to tap into the cruelties of those for whom there is no prospect of a holiday from pain.

This review appeared in some editions of Saturday's paper DOMINIC CAVENDISH



Andrew Lincoln in *Sugar Sugar*

Where vicars fear to tread

THEATRE
RACING DEMON
CHICHESTER FESTIVAL
THEATRE

LIONEL is worried in the teeth of a crisis, his boss remains silent. Lionel also under pressure from Charlie, the area manager, to toe the company line. Try, his hot-shot colleague, is weaseling his way out of a relationship with his girlfriend and Jerry has boyfriend problems. The big surprise about the magnificent *Racing Demon* is that all these characters are somewhere in the fierce hierarchy of the Church of England.

Occasionally, awards committees get it right. This, the first (and best) of what became a trilogy about the state of the nation, won four awards for best play. Part of its strength derives from the fact that while its driving narrative is bound up in the wheeler-dealing of an inner-city parish, David Hare's gripping analysis of beliefs in conflict with changing priorities could equally apply to any number of contemporary institutions, from a mail business to New Labour. Hare has been criticised for writing one-sided multipieces for ideas but this elegantly refutes that notion with richly realised characters caught up in personal dramas.

It is also a masterpiece of structure. Everyone's position is heartily. Their passions feed an drive a superbly balanced tale of blackmail and betrayal, while asking profound questions to which there are no easy answers.

Unfortunately, the depth of the writings is not quite matched by its new production. The director, Christopher Foran, is anxious to get full flower to everyone's position, but he allows several of his actors to overplay their hands, thus flattening out their characters' chilling contradictions.

Dinsdale Lumsden is gently sympathetic as the central character of Lionel but the fervour of Paul Venables as the evangelical Tony looking eerily like Tony Blair is too close-sided.

The production is, however, strong on humour, whether it is Peter Bourke as Rev Donal "Streaky" Bacon gleefully knocking back tequila lunches at the Savoy, or Des Quilley as the Bishop of Southwark giving a masterclass in pompous self-satisfaction.

The second act tightens like a noose as a series of bugle dramatic pay-offs to the seemingly disparate threads of the first half, be it the tensions build, Moray's pacing goes awry, each of the final scenes is played so lugubriously that the action is in danger of drifting.

But the play is a cracking choice for Chichester. It is not every day that a local theatre offers such an engrossing dramatisation of the way its audience thinks.

DAVID BENEDICT

Steamy fusion meets its vinyl reckoning

JAZZ
NILS PETER MOLVAER
JAZZ CAFE
LONDON

IT WAS a moment that could have happened at any time over the last 50 years of jazz history, since *The Birth of the Cool*. The introspective trumpeter, alone in the spotlight, a wealth of smoke curling towards the jazz club's ceiling. Quiet, soulful, short and long melodic phrases tumbling from the bell of the instrument, held close to the microphone. Attentive, serious listeners.

Suddenly the cadenza was interrupted - not by cymbal or chiming piano chord - but by the scratchy noise of a "turntable artist" heralding the return of a monster, crunching rhythm section. The trumpet carried on, soaring above the dissonant collision of urban

sounds. This was a moment from no time but the present. At full power, Nils Peter Molvaer's band is an awesome machine. These youngish Norwegian musicians play a late-Nineties version of jazz fusion, a once-decided genre that is proving to be remarkably robust and embraces a wide variety of intelligent playing and composition. The reasons for fusion's continued health may be technical - modern equipment (not to mention listeners) can cope with the complex

layering of timbres that used to turn to mush.

So huge credit goes to Molvaer's sound engineer, Sven Persson, a veteran of the Scandinavian jazz scene, for a live mix that was clear, rich and hard as nails when the two drummers (Rune Arnesen and Per Lindvall) hit maximum groove. The resulting brew, great swaths of steaming funk, featured virtuoso bass playing by Auden Eriksen and the wide-screen guitar textures of Eivind Aarset - superb ensemble players both. In addition to the basic quintet, Persson had to mix in an unpredictable array of turntable interjections from the sixth band member, the DJ Strawberry, whose vinyl

collection included Turkish folk music and the sound track to Vadim's *Barbarella*.

Molvaer used the regular trumpet sound throughout, playing quietly and close to the mike without mutes or effects, except for one adventurous early piece, where he magicked some Zawinulish chords from an electronic harmoniser. The natural brassiness of his trumpet tone emerges only in a couple of bravura improvisations that show the full range and depth of his technique.

Most of the material came from Molvaer's ECM album *Kimer*, whose melodies manage to be both heartrending and naggingly memorable - the slow cadences of "Song of

Sand" and "Platonic Years" were made more majestic and soulful by the intensely rhythmic accompaniment. But on stage, a straightforward rendering of "Tion", its synthesiser sequence played from a DAT backing tape, evolved quickly into a live 12-inch of bass and double drums, the band breaking down the ensemble arrangement into its component parts. Then Nils Peter Molvaer returned to the stage to lead that band to another climax, a reedy, impassioned cantillation that evoked some of the beady European and African elements that have enriched jazz for a century. Despite Molvaer's natural reserve, there is no shortage of

emotion in his playing. The musicians sit the stage to loud cheers - a far band was born.

For the encore, Molvaer reinvented the "jazz ballad", creating a tableau with percussion the eventually lurched into another glorious groove, an optimistic but melancholy backdrop for the trumpet's lonely trademark.

In the audience, a few danced alone. Most grinned, jiggled to be heard and nodded in amazement and enjoyment. Intellectual stimulation, sensual pleasure. A band from a small country at the far edge of Europe that is tuned to the spirit of here and now.

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ENG v ROM post-match
SCO v MOROCCO (BBC)
ENG v ROM pre-match
SCO v MOROCCO post-match
Brazil v Chile (BBC)
Nigeria v Denmark
Nigeria v Den post-match

سكتات الامم

As controller of Radio 3, Nicholas Kenyon learnt from his mistakes. His successor must do the same. By Robert Hanks

Who needs another Classic FM?

NICHOLAS KENYON is, I would guess, a happy man this week. After six years steering a wobbly course between the Scylla of BBC management and the Charybdis of audience and staff, he has jumped ship, announcing that he is to pack in the job of controller, BBC Radio 3 (though he will carry on as controller, BBC Proms for the next five years, and adds the new job of controller, BBC millennium programmes). He is probably dancing a hornpipe of relief at escaping one of the most thankless jobs in broadcasting.

Whether Radio 3's small but fanatically loyal band of listeners will be as relieved to see him go is another question. Although grumbling never ceased throughout Kenyon's reign, Radio 3 was probably as safe in his hands as it would have been in anybody else's. Radio 3 has always been an expensive way of serving a small number of listeners - though, of course, it is also an effective cultural patron, encouraging poetry and drama as well as music. But the pressure for Radio 3 to justify itself in ratings terms has been mounting. It was not relieved by the advent of Classic FM, whose success seemed to confirm Kenyon's contention that a large potential audience was enthusiastic about music but was put off by the station's stuffy manner.

The Kenyon years saw their share of cock-ups and confusions - the Paul Gambaccini fiasco, and a host of other, smaller idiocies, for instance, the new morning drive-time slot, *On Air*, started life with a different presenter for every day of the week, creating an outpouring uncertainty of tone. Then, critics argued, too much of the schedule was taken up by undifferentiated sequences of records - *On Air*, *Masterworks*, *Musical Encounters*, *In Tune* - in which a Gershwin song could follow a Beethoven sonata, or a Shostakovich string quartet could nuzzle up to a Rossini aria, with no apparent rationale.

But Kenyon was ready to learn: Gambaccini departed, and *On Air* became a one-man show. The sequence programmes may have been individually incoherent, but over a week or a month themes would emerge: the regular listener would get a thorough grounding in Shostakovich chamber music or Beethoven sonatas. There was some dilution of the core classical repertoire - more jazz, more songs from the shows, more "light classical",

more film music. But Radio 3's core product, live recitals, concerts and opera broadcasts, remained strong. Meanwhile, documentaries and features tackled a huge range of subjects with a liveliness and creativity that had been missing for years.

Kenyon's critics feel that he should have resisted the pressure to popularise; realistically, that was never an option, and until just lately he seemed to have found an intelligent compromise. However, the most recent batch of schedule changes suggests that something has gone awry: in the morning drive-time slot, the amiable and knowledgeable Andrew McGregor has been replaced by the inane Petroc Trelawney, who brings with him from Classic FM the assumption that nobody wants to hear a piece of music more than four minutes long; *Musical Encounters* has been replaced by Joan Bakewell's over-extended interviews in *Artist of the Week*, and the chaotic feature slot *Sound Stories*, both programmes wrap short musical extracts in a mass of anecdote. The thrust of the new schedules seems to be to drive away anybody genuinely interested in listening to and finding out about music. Instead, bizarrely, the publicly funded Radio 3 seems to want to duplicate the service already provided by the commercial Classic FM.

This change has, according to insiders at Radio 3, coincided with a new remoteness in Nicholas Kenyon's relations with the station; he has become, they say, a rather distant, avuncular presence. So the new schedules are largely the work of Hilary Boulding, Radio 3's head of music policy - and, unconvincingly for Radio 3 listeners, the favourite among internal candidates for the controller's job.

As for outsiders, the most prominent name to be mentioned so far is Michael Berkeley. As a composer and the artistic director of the Cheltenham Festival, his cultural credits are impeccable, and he has a high public profile as an outspoken member of the Royal Opera board and as presenter of Radio 3's *Private Passions*. Music lovers would probably feel safe in his hands; but it seems doubtful whether he would want such a poisoned chalice of a job - or whether he would be able to resist the pressure to go pop. The chances are that in a couple of years we shall be looking back at Nick Kenyon's reign as the good old days.



The contenders for Kenyon's crown: Michael Berkeley, artistic director of the Cheltenham Festival, and Hilary Boulding, head of Radio 3's music policy



It's time to get rid of heritage radio

SUPPOSE YOU were starting a specialist music station. You can take it that chart pop and golden oldies, middle-of-the-road and easy classics are covered on the mass channels. How would you assign the air time?

Here is a test. Go to a megastore and observe the departments and categories. There is a classical and opera corner, of course, and one for jazz. Look for the growing range of dance and club music, subdivided into the nebulous drum-and-bass and garage and then a quick-changing list of esoteric headings. Nearby is world music. The "folk" and "traditional" racks overlap with it.

Then comes a floor-space packed with rock bands old

and new, freakish titles that must have a bigger following than John Peel and his dog, and the mysteries of techno. Now place each of them in their radio slot. Hard, isn't it?

A couple of themed sessions on Radios 1 and 2 cream off the high-appeal traditional and world music and the dance hits. There is John Peel himself, and a scattering of jazz slots - the lobby has done its work here, though it has not won a single power base. Everything else seems to cram into the late-night 45 minutes of *Mixing It* on Radio 3. Wait; there is just one more cult. Only this one has a whole BBC network to itself, plus a commercial station that overlaps quite a bit.

All the other cults, whose followers pack the megastores, have to battle for a few concessions while the classical establishment pulls rank. Its defenders all it cultural radio, but it stands for one layer of the many cultures in contemporary Britain. What we have is heritage radio: a mix of nostalgia, social tradition, sincere but blinkered cultivation and a leavening of intellectual bite. Where is the musical justification?

We argue endlessly over Radio 3's content, but the debate polarises: either we go back to the Third Programme or we make it more commercial. There is a third way, and it allows the ears to lead. Its beauty is that it can follow the pattern of the BBC's

other stations and help to rationalise them, too. As with Radios 1 and 2, the key to it is the evenings. Each night should attract its own cult following. World night and dance night, jazz night and folk night, classical and opera night and contemporary night - meaning the whole range of creative activity, right across the cultures, still with its Birtwistle corner if you will.

And daytime? The formats have to be looser and more popular, and the watchword should be an "imaginative" mix. Why can't a short sitar performance follow a Bach concerto, or an Irish song sit alongside jazz?

The pattern can be set with sensitivity and skill. But what a

tempting sequence, what a way to connect with the reality of listeners' tastes, what a challenge for the ears of the broadcasters! And there are still the evenings for focus and intensity.

Obstacles are gigantic: the Proms, the BBC orchestras, the vested interests. They can be reformed, with bigger scope and more outside finance. We may even accept that there has been massive overproduction and that we will not miss some of them.

The perception of difficulties cannot be an excuse. If this is an age that dares to throw away its blinkers about the Royal Opera, who knows what it might achieve for national music radio?

ROBERT MAYCOCK

Lonely Planet has made Ian Wright a star. Or at least it could if he would only let it. By Jasper Rees

Incredible journey of the great unwashed

IAN WRIGHT is the lippy little presenter of *Lonely Planet*, the travel programme for backpackers which gives you none of that piffle about bucket shops and package deals. His closest relations on television, believe it or not, are the *Two Fat Ladies*. If the ladies, neither lippy nor little, speak clipped BBC English, Wright communicates in ITV English, a wiry mesh of glottal stops and cockney elisions. They may be emissaries from two entirely different versions of England, but in TV land they are next-door neighbours.

The common ground they meet on is "naturalness", that ability possessed by only a few people in television to be utterly themselves in front of a camera. See also Sir John Harvey-Jones, Sister Wendy Beckett, Lady Lucinda Lambton etc.

It is a gift that seduces not only domestic audiences but also the foreign market. The popularity of *Two Fat Ladies* on US cable's cookery channel we know about. *Lonely Planet* is an American hit too. A staple of the Discovery Channel, it may well be the most watched travel programme in the world.

Its chief presenter gets recog-

nised down some improbable streets - America, obviously, but also Iran, where last Friday's chirpy series-opener found him. Oddly, though, he is not so much of a household face in his own country.

Lonely Planet is six series old, but this is his first newspaper interview. When he was sounded out for the job of presenting *The Big Breakfast*, he fended them off. Had he accepted, though, the public may have wondered if they had simply got the wrong Ian Wright.

Wright comes on at you like Tony Parsons' kid brother. He has that same high-eyed, wide-boned face and a mouth powered by Duracell. The difference is that Parsons would never throw off his bespoke suit to thumb rides into distant wildernesses. Wright is a card-carrying member of the great unwashed. One of the central tenets of his backpack philosophy is that scrubbing is for cissies. "When I was young I just couldn't be arsed," he explains. "It's like, a bath to me was a waste of time."

Listening to him from Greenland or Thailand, it is hard to believe he wasn't born within the sound of

Bow bells. "I know, I know," he says. "It annoys me now, as well." A native of Ipswich, he moved to London at 18 to study fine art, and in intervening years the city has entered him by osmosis. "The voice changes, you know. You start taking the piss out of people and five years down the line you've got this London tint, and it gets worse and worse. I blame the jellied eels and the rollmops myself."

He lives in Hoxton, next door to a community centre that seems to be his second home, and spent his first eight years in London "pissing about really". He joined a theatre group which performed at primary schools under a credo that could apply equally to Wright's brand of travel journalism. "So many groups go in to give the kids 'messages' that we wanted to get away from all that bollocks. It was called *The Journey*, a complete fantasy journey of colour and imagination and stuff."

He and a flatmate also made "stupid" videos. One was called *Enter the Dragon from Behind*. On the strength of it he was encouraged to apply for a television travel job advertised in a newspaper. By that time he had backpacked in three conti-



Ian Wright - 'the lippy little presenter with the natural touch'

nents. He submitted "a piss-take show reel I filmed around London as if it was the Caribbean. I thought, if it was something different..."

That voice of his has since become a commodity. In a recent hiatus between Norway and Siberia (where he is now), he did a voiceover that earned him in one day more than he used to earn in a year. Money seems not to motivate him, though. He still lives the same sort of life he did when he was a market stall holder, courier/coffee bar

waiter. "There's nothing that I need or want at the moment. I just chuck it in a bank."

Not apparently, does celebrity excite him. *The Big Breakfast* job would put him on the A-list. But he uses his travelling as an excuse to fend off seductive offers. "Oh man, that would be too dangerous. I can't read off scripts. When I'm chatting to camera I know it's going to be cut up and everything. Live radio I've done and I've been shit. Because I can't relax."

A looney toon that isn't funny

THERE'S ONLY one way of saying this, so I'll say it. I hate *South Park*. It's hugely popular in the States, however, especially with 18-24-year-olds which suggests that I don't get it. But is there anything to get?

Maybe you missed the first episode - "Cartman gets an Anal Probe" - which was shown on Channel 4 last Friday night. *South Park* is a crude "cut-out" animation whose four main characters - a gang of schoolchums from the Colorado Rockies - all have Charlie Brown-shaped heads and are about as indistinguishable as Home Pride flourmen.

Described somewhere as "Peanuts meets *A Clockwork Orange*", there's a talking turd, a character who dies in every episode, alien anal probes, flaming flatulence, and a gay dog (famously "voiced" - actually he just harks - by George Clooney). Jesus is reduced to hosting a community access show called "Jesus and Pals".

This may have stuff in the context of modern America, but that doesn't transfer to the screen. I can admire the show's two twentysomething creators, Matt Stone and Trey Parker, for claiming they prefer Jerry Springer to Woody Allen - and for offering Jerry Seinfeld the voice of "turkey number one" when "his people" complained Seinfeld should have a bigger part in the Christmas special than "turkey number two". But this jolly iconoclasm comes across much more crudely in *South Park*.

"Juvenile?", asks Channel 4's press information. "Yes. Irreverent. Yes. Mealy-mouthed and mean spirited? Yes. Deranged? Absolutely."

Maybe it is more refreshing in the States, where PC has been more of a problem, but just cast your mind back to *Beavis and Butt-head*, which made a similarly shocking entree in 1992. Now that was

SOUNDING OFF



GERARD GILBERT
It's easy to forget that everything depends not just on the quality of the drawing, but on the quality of the script

funny. *South Park* is funnier than our own dear *Stressed Eric*, the highest waste of fabulous animators since Disney got his hands on Cinderella.

What it's easy to forget with animation, which seems to come from somewhere magical, is that everything depends, not just on the quality of the drawing, but on the quality of the script.

"Listen" to the writing behind the animation and the much-lauded Duckman comes across as a lame Groucho Marx rip-off with great graphics. *Stressed Eric* is that perennial waste of space - the duff British sitcom. *South Park* comes across like two puerile, scatological and not-half-as-funny-as-they-think-they-are twentysomethings with their handbrakes off.

The height of this genre of animation, for me, is the sublimely mad *Ren & Stimpy*. Apparently the walls of the South Park creators' office in California, are bedecked with *Ren & Stimpy* posters. At least, then, we worship at the same altar.

THE RATINGS

WORLD CUP		BEST OF THE REST		BBC2 AND CHANNEL 4		CHANNEL 5	
The World Cup effect kicked in hard in the last week of June, leaving the soaps far behind.		As for anything that wasn't a soap, the news or the World Cup, there seemed hardly any point bothering.		Still, life continued as normal for the two upmarket channels...		...and for the downmarket channel. Nice to see Xena holding her end up, though.	
PROGRAMME	TOTAL (MILLIONS)	PROGRAMME	TOTAL (MILLIONS)	PROGRAMME	TOTAL (MILLIONS)	PROGRAMME	TOTAL (MILLIONS)
1 Eng v Rom (ITV)	19.48	1 Panorama (BBC1)	7.91	1 Fawcett Towers (BBC2)	4.89	1 Sex Life	2.16
2 Eng v Col (BBC1)	19.13	2 Diana: My Sister (BBC1)	7.71	2 Brookside (Wed/Sat) (C4)	4.28	2 Haunting of Lisa	2.02
3 Eng v Rom post-match (ITV)	19.07	3 Don't try this at Home (ITV)	7.57	3 Brookside (Fri/Sat) (C4)	3.85	3 Bella Mafia (Wed)	1.68
4 Eng v Rom post-match (BBC1)	17.05	4 One in a Million (ITV)	7.11	4 Brookside (Tue/Sat) (C4)	3.81	4 She Fought Alone	1.59
5 Sco v Morocco (BBC1)	12.67	5 You've Been Framed (ITV)	6.89	5 Heavenly Creatures (BBC2)	3.70	5 Separated by Murder	1.59
6 Eng v Rom pre-match (ITV)	12.05	6 The Human Body (Thu) (BBC1)	6.53	6 Hollyoaks (Thu/Sun) (C4)	3.28	6 Bella Mafia (Tue)	1.37
7 Sco v Mor post-match (BBC1)	11.69	7 Harry Enfield... (BBC1)	6.53	7 Hollyoaks (Mon/Sun) (C4)	3.25	7 5 News and Sport (Sat)	1.25
8 Brazil v Chile (BBC1)	10.63	8 Top of the Pops (BBC1)	6.47	8 Designs on Your... (C4)	2.97	8 Hotline	1.19
9 Nigeria v Denmark (ITV)	10.32	9 Human Body (Wed) (BBC1)	6.12	8- TFI Friday (C4)	2.97	9 Hot Property	1.13
10 Nigeria v Den post-match (ITV)	9.97	10 Berkeley Square (BBC1)	6.06	10 French and Saunders (BBC2)	2.95	10 Xena/Princess	1.12

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NETWORK

Digital Sky is far from the limit in the Internet age

LIKE A comet preceding the end of the world, the belated roll-out of the digital BSkyB was preceded by many frightening sightings of Elisabeth Murdoch, the newly promoted head of programming. Elisabeth, aka Baby Murdoch, is known as the acceptable face of Daddy Rupert's empire, and is being deployed to confuse and disarm the digital opposition.

In one of her recent comments, Baby M announced that BSkyB is not the sole preserve of football-crazy, TV-dinner-eating young males, but is in fact just the opposite. The Sky that Elisabeth sees is a caring and sharing broadcaster that welcomes and embraces womenfolk, sisters and ladies worldwide. To me, the people at Sky have always seemed to be high on something (perhaps it's just the excitement of skinning alive 5 million football addicts), but this was too intriguing to miss.

After pouring myself a stiff drink, I took a deep breath and ventured into the tahlid-on-satellite air-

space to check that new-found, female-friendly programming. Sadly, a short glimpse into the Sky output made me run for cover, ducking between soccer, rugby and a bunch of blood-thirsty movies.

The attempts to create a personality cult of Elisabeth Murdoch as Sky's programming guru have not been limited to gravity-defying quotes on a change of gender preferences at Sky. The nub of Sky's new concept is not her cameo appearance as Daddy's-girl-turned-omnipotent-satellite prophet, but something called "multiplexing".

Multiplexing, in satellite lingo, means showing the same programme many times during the course of the day on different channels, in order to fill the unimaginable number of hours on the 200 available channels with some vaguely acceptable viewing material. In other words, multiplexing is about repeats and recycling.

But if recycling is a laudable way of treating your garbage, it is a bad



EVA PASCOE

Websites have established themselves solidly as the best medium for niche programming

solution to the problem of multi-channel programming. It has taken Sky almost four years and many millions of pounds of investors' hard cash to develop digital satellite TV, and all we have to show for

it is an aviation documentary, shot by the BBC circa 1956, on 10 different channels. That apparently is the digital TV folks' concept of video-on-demand, and, yes, "consumer choice". People are already paying Sky subscriptions to watch the same programme appearing twice during the day. But, according to Baby M, it is going to get much worse.

Apart from multiplexing, Sky has cleverly developed the second leg in its imaginative strategy - niche markets. According to Mark Booth, Sky's hapless leader, digital TV will deliver niche programming for hobbyists interested in sport (surprise, surprise), music, documentaries and whatever other anthropological niches Elisabeth can dig out.

This is bizarre logic, for in terms of efficiency of advertising versus production costs, Internet websites have already established themselves as the best medium for niche programming, particularly because websites feature interac-

tive, community-building tools such as forums, chat rooms and e-mail. These generate up-to-date knowledge and provide a support system for the online community - which non-interactive TV cannot do.

From www.theonline.com to www.protein.co.uk, the hobbyists rule online. Since most of the programming comes from experts in their areas - people who often do not charge a fee for contributions - the costs are kept down. The Internet has only recently upped the ante on video, but already sites such as www.protein.co.uk prove that there is no mystery in creating video-based programming.

Real Audio, Adobe Premiere 5.0 and Firewire provide an inexpensive set-up for a small, desktop video-editing operation. It is almost as easy as putting together HTML pages. Since story-telling is a skill as old as mankind, there will be no shortage of storytellers making interesting Internet video programs as soon as the bandwidth allows their distribution. The dif-

ference between programme-making for television and for the Internet these days is, to a large degree, purely psychological.

TV editing tools are expensive. The operators of Harry and Avid editing suites are surrounded by a cloud of mystery and there is a gigantic gap between programme makers and the consumers. One-to-many is firmly established as the TV programming paradigm, with all the appropriate rituals embedded in the broadcast world.

On the other hand, the Internet has allowed a two-way, many-to-many medium, where niche programming is often produced by hobbyists. Since it is supplemented by bulletin boards, newsgroups and e-mail, the production of websites is widely distributed, with many contributors over the period of a site's existence.

That is why niche programming will not be easy to replicate on digital TV, because, short of setting up a public TV studio in every town, the tools to make such programming

are beyond the scope of even the most committed hobbyist.

And as Elisabeth Murdoch has discovered, there simply are not enough production people in the TV industry to provide the required thousands of hours of low-cost, high-quality programming. That is why she is trying to kid us with multiplexing, making a virtue out of necessity. So if Elisabeth were to think outside her role of media tycoon in the making, she could produce programming that is perhaps more exciting than endless repeats disguised as multiplexing.

Courage, boldness and embracing the new global, many-to-many, interactive media world are the only way for Baby M to become a real first among equals, rather than just a family firm trainee. Hanging on to old concepts and Rupert Murdoch's view of the broadcasting world is not going to make digital Sky move the Earth for anybody.

It is quality, not quantity, that will determine whether digital TV can make its mark in the 21st century.

Everybody needs good 'face time'

New technology was meant to turn us into telecommuters - solitary workers scattered around the globe. Instead, computers have proved how much we need to be with each other. By Rob Brown

REMEMBER WHEN computers were going to transport us all to telecottages in the Scottish Highlands or some other remote rural idyll? Strangely, the vast majority of us are still toiling away in the same old towns and cities.

Whatever happened to the "weightless economy" and the "death of distance"? If one industry should be dispersing it is the new media industry. After all, it is about the creative application of interactive communications technology. Yet the new digital media economy is flourishing not so much in the back of beyond, but in characterful and sophisticated urban quarters.

In the US, the most comprehensively wired society in the world, software and multimedia companies are being magnetically drawn to areas that mirror their founders' self-image: bright and sparky communities such as "Multimedia Gulch", a warehouse/factory district in San Francisco that was all but abandoned not so long ago. The closest Britain comes to anything nearly so impressive is the Brighton Media Centre, which renovated several derelict buildings to provide a home to more than 50 media companies.

There are more than 230 new media companies dotted around north and north-west London and they have tended to cluster in lively and appealing parts of the metropolis, such as Soho and Hammer-smith, which offer something even the most breathtakingly beautiful stretches of the Scottish Highlands cannot: an opportunity to meet and spark off people in the same field of work. Such networking takes place not just in purpose-built, ergonomically pleasing media centres but also in an enticing array of bars, cafes and restaurants, as well as out in the street itself.

London First, the capital's inward investment agency, noted in a recent report how London's position as a hub of both creative and technical excellence has enabled it to emerge as one of the strongest international centres for new media. "Despite advances in new technology and communications, the industry still thrives on agglomeration," the document stated. "People coming together are a key strength for central London."

Another strength is London's long-established competitive edge in media production, along with information technology plus publishing and design. And all of these previously distinct sectors have been converging and cross-fertilising, creating an industry more diverse than ever before.

Alvin Toffler, it seems, was talking tosh when he told us we were entering the age of the telecottages. "His argument may have attractive, abstract, economic logic, but it doesn't stand up to the cold facts of social and cultural life," observes Dr Andrew Pratt, a lecturer in geography at the London School of Economics.

He explains: "Space and place will have more significance than ever in the digital cultural economy. People need 'face time'. Also they have to go home to a place to live, meet friends and bring up their families. Despite the bits and bytes that we produce, we are still comprised of atoms."

Such advice was echoed by Douglas Henton, a Silicon Valley-based economist, in a recent report for James Irvine Foundation. The "New Economy", he argued, will flourish not in disembodied cyberspace but in places which provide an ideal setting for such creative interaction.

This perspective is fast gaining wide acceptance. A growing realisation that the New Economy likes old communities is giving a spur to urban development agencies across Britain, a number of which are now competing ferociously to ensure a "digital cluster" develops within their district.

The key issue for the planners is how to bring about an ideal environment for such networking. They talk of a "creative milieu" in which the techies can get together and collaborate with other cultural workers. Representatives from all sectors of the emerging digital media industry agreed at the DTI-funded Interaction 3 conference in March that the best way to support the microbusinesses which are generating new wealth is through small business clusters and, more specifically, media centres.

The people behind the Brighton Media Centre are seeking Arts Council backing to build a national network of media centres which would be connected, along with public libraries, into the National Grid for Learning.

"Because of our experience and success in Brighton, we are uniquely placed to offer advice and support to embryonic media centres," said Ian Elwick. "Without such support they are likely to go through the same learning curve as Brighton Media Centre, or possibly even fail."

A lavish attempt to put itself on the new-media map is being made by Liverpool, where planning approval has just been granted for a 15,000sq-ft Media Factory on a prestigious waterfront location, opposite

the Albert Dock. The £25m public-private development aims to attract all forms of media companies to a state-of-the-art production facility.

It will also offer local people and businesses an opportunity to develop new skills, products and work opportunities and to gain new insights into the application of digital technologies.

The Media Factory is a major element of a £125m National Discovery Centre, which has received backing from both the EU and the Millennium Fund. Overseeing it all is an Ulsterman called Alistair Macdonald, who is project officer for Liverpool City Council.

"Liverpool has lost out to Manchester and London because we haven't had media production facilities capable of serving as a focus and a magnet," he enthuses in a strong Belfast brogue. It is critically important to stop the flow of ideas and talent away from this city."

Multimedia clusters are also popping up in some of the most unlikely places, as other local authorities and economic development bodies battle for EU, Lottery and Millennium funding.

It's even happening in Huddersfield. With the aid of a £2m EU grant - for which it beat 500 rival bids - the West Yorkshire town is out to prove that creative milieus could be developed in average towns all across the continent. It has just entered the second year of its three-year Creative Town Initiative and there is already quite a buzz developing around its small, focused media centre. Phil Wood, the initiative's programme manager, believes there is no reason why smaller places cannot spawn their own smaller clusters.

"Everyone said the media centre was a folly when it was first proposed, but the 20 workspaces have been filled from day one and there's a waiting list for space," he says. "I'm sure supercilious southerners sat around the coffee houses of 1700s London and said, 'This industrial revolution thing will never catch on, especially not in Huddersfield of all places.'"

Not that Wood believes new media can replace the thousands of jobs lost in the textile industry. "That's not the point," he says. "Our Creative Town Initiative is one of the contributors to a new sense of identity and optimism in this town."

Multimedia clusters could certainly bring a little sparkle to other towns in Britain's Rust Belt, especially if connected to other cultural pursuits, as many tend



to be. "Convergence" and "cross-fertilisation" are proving to be the great buzzwords here for urban development agencies interested in creativity.

Such phrases are regularly invoked by Kevin Kane, the sharp young technocrat who is heading up Scottish Enterprise's newly formed Creative Media Group. He sees the city of Glasgow as Scotland's greatest hope in this sector, pointing out that there are already more than 10,000 people employed directly in the production, distribution and consumption of cultural and creative industries in Glasgow.

"Obviously, we're not in the same league as a metropolitan media capital like London, but we are a player in the new economy," Kane asserts. "It is vital that

Scotland exploits the opportunities offered by the digital technology. The creation, commissioning and distribution of original content across all media - digital and non-digital - is the business lifeblood of the global information economy."

The Arts Council has recently commissioned a major study on multimedia clusters. It will be written by Clive Gilman, a new media practitioner and resource adviser. He has just started his research but already believes that there is a certain naivety around.

"There is a tendency to think that if you fill a building with a lot of new media kit something magical is bound to emerge," he drily observes.

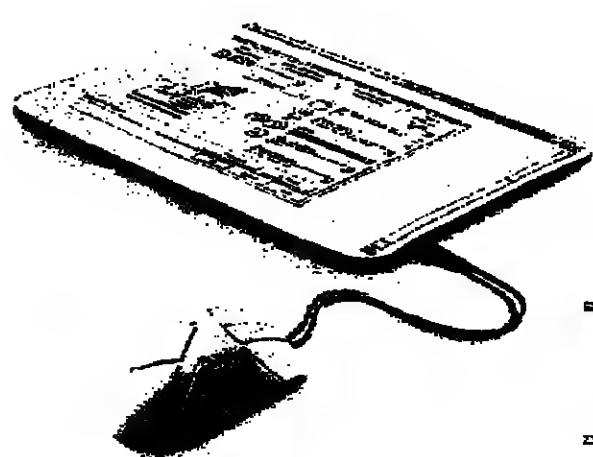
"I'm not completely sceptical, but I

think the challenge is a lot more complicated than some people drawing up, or assessing, lottery bids seem to think."

Mr Gilman would also like to see more value attached to cultural as well as economic outputs.

In the eyes of economic developers, however, "culture" and "economy" are gradually converging. The "cultural milieu" they are working towards is one where the "digerati" see themselves not as dreamy artists, but more as driven, export-orientated entrepreneurs.

Rob Brown is one of the few who has fled to a telecottages, choosing the south-west coast of Ireland. Feedback to rbrown@indigo.ie



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IN TODAY'S NETWORK SECTION

Upgrade angst: how user-friendly is Microsoft's latest venture as Windows 98 becomes available for your PC

In love with my laptop: comedian Joe Pasquale found a way to stay hooked on the all-important Internet even while touring the country

Web design: Jason Cranford Teague Websites: Bill Pannifer

THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGES 15, 17&18

Thanks for 72 hours of hell, Bill

Was it worth spending three working days trying to upgrade to Windows 98? Yes, but only just, moans Steve Homer

Compared with the launch of Windows 95, Microsoft's latest Windows 98 has been a whimper. Talk to the ordinary home computer or small office user and as like as not they will not have heard of it.

But Microsoft is touting Windows 98 as the next step up for your PC. Programs will load faster, it will free up space on your hard disk, make connections to the Internet easier, make your PC more environmentally friendly - and much more besides. These claims seem to stand up quite well, but one thing Microsoft has not got right seems to be installing Windows 98.

Here I have to admit to some personal prejudice. I have spent the better part of three days getting my computer back in proper working order after installing Windows 98. Halfway through the installation process, Windows 98 could not communicate with my CD-ROM drive - a bit of a problem as Windows 98 was installing from that drive.

I reinstalled Windows 98, having added some Stone-Age DOS commands to my startup files. DOS is the original PC operating system from about 10 years ago which still lies buried in the heart of Windows operating systems. Windows 98 found my CD-ROM OK, but still took some six hours to install.

I will not bore you with the problems of setting up my monitor to behave the way it used to; nor the trials of getting my modem working once again; nor the problems I had with all my Internet passwords disappearing - and so forth. Suffice to say it was a nightmare.

This article is not born out of that set of problems alone. When I started asking, the first two people I queried said they had also experienced terrible problems installing Windows 98. The probability of that being chance seemed remote.

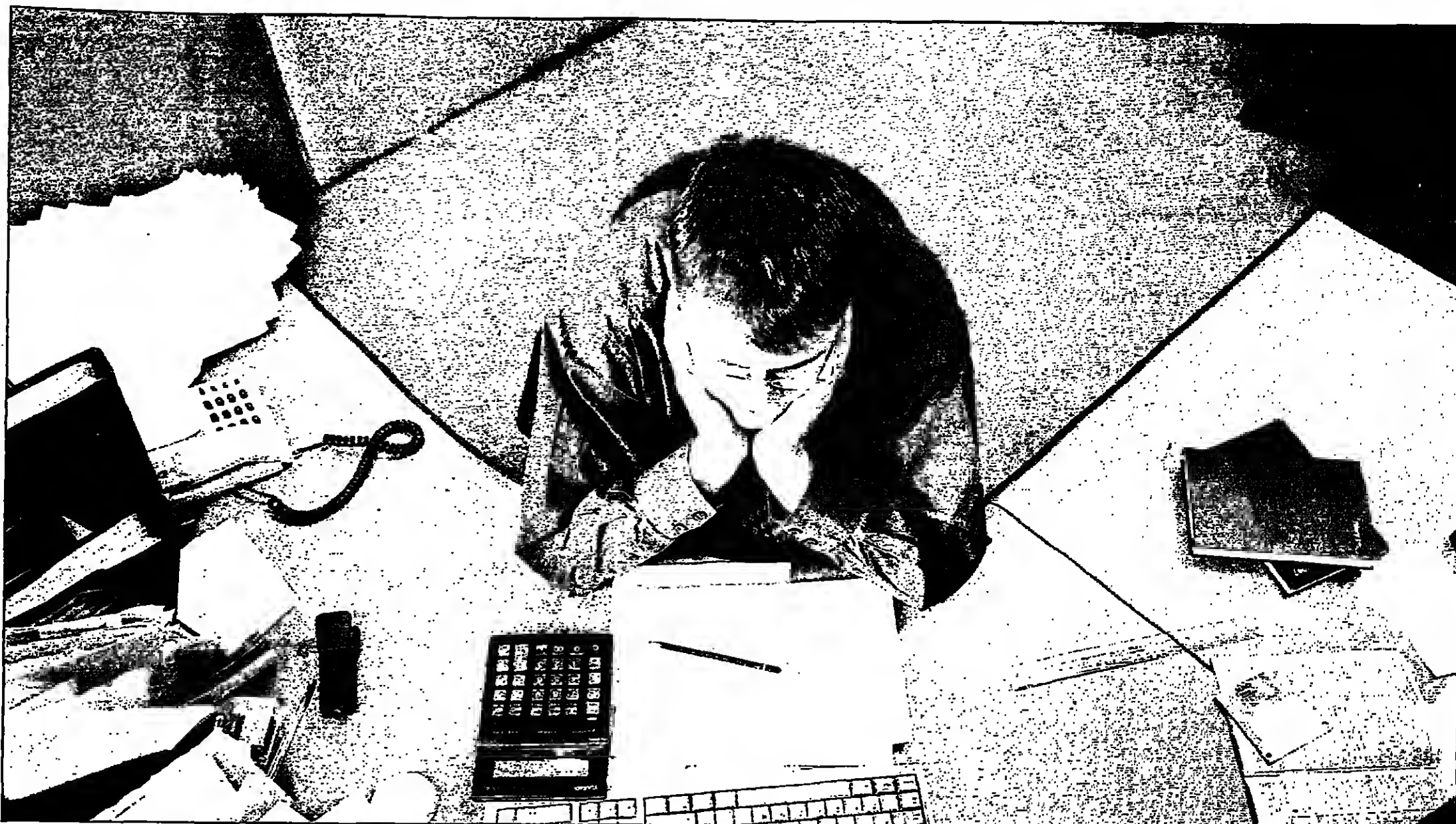
It appears that a significant number of people installing Windows 98 on top of Windows 95 are having difficulties. Microsoft does not see things this way.

"We sold more products in the first four days than we did with Windows 95, and we had less support calls," claims David Weeks, Microsoft's Windows 98 product manager in the UK.

At first, he said that around 95 per cent of people installing Windows 98 on their PCs were having no problems at all, but then he admitted: "There are issues with users installing over previous installations."

The Web is not only alive with people who have had problems, more interestingly, it is replete with warnings from computer manufacturers and advice telling existing customers how to avoid problems. Dell, for example, has an excellent site (www.dell.co.uk) which warns some users not to even try installing Windows 98.

"Some older systems you cannot upgrade, but for most users, if you



You are not alone: 'The first two people I queried said they had also experienced terrible problems installing Windows 98'

Emma Boam

TIPS FOR A TROUBLE-FREE INSTALLATION

Gather information first

Check with your PC manufacturer that it is OK to upgrade your machine. Many companies have a Web site that can help. If you have added in any hardware - such as a new hard disk, a new monitor or a new CD-ROM drive - check with the manufacturer of that equipment, too. You may need new "drivers" - little programs that tell the operating system how to talk to your devices.

Prepare to upgrade

Switch off all virus checkers, program schedulers and screen savers, or anything that could possibly interrupt the installation.

Run Scandisk or another utility to make sure that your disk is in a good condition.

Install

The ideal way to install Windows 98 on a machine that is already in use is to save all of your data out on to another PC or a mass storage system, such as a Zip drive or a recordable CD. Then reformat the hard disk and install Windows 98. But only do this if you feel technically competent. If you cannot do that, back up any important data, close your eyes and pray.

That leaves only one question: Is it worth installing Windows 98? After wasting many hours and a lot of energy, on balance the

answer is yes. I like the fact that programs such as word processors, Internet browsers and graphics packages open faster. It makes using the PC more comfortable.

Installing the new, improved disc structure that comes with Windows 98 means that I freed up several hundred megabytes on my 1Gb hard disk. I might have lost two or three days' work, but as long as I keep my PC for six months or more the investment in time will have been worthwhile.

While Microsoft might claim this is a simple, consumer-friendly upgrade, it isn't. Upgrading to Windows 98 messes with the very heart of your PC, so be careful.

scheme. One of the big selling points for Windows 98 was the new power management system, "but it requires non-trivial changes to our BIOS before it will work properly," says Mark West, UK product manager of technologies for Toshiba. "We hope to get a fix posted on our Web site as soon as we can."

Many industry watchers are critical of Windows 98. If the PC is being sold to the public as a consumer-friendly device, surely, they argue, a more consumer-friendly approach to new product development is going to be needed.

"You shouldn't have to check to see if your computer is OK to upgrade. The manufacturers should have got together with Microsoft and got this right before the launch," says Mary Branscombe, producer of the UK Computer Channel at AOL, the Internet service.

Branscombe says that so far in AOL discussion groups the balance seems to be that most people are having a fairly smooth installation, but she also points out that ordinary users are only just beginning to try to install the system.

follow the recommended instructions, you should not have a problem. Just make sure you read the documentation first and back up critical files before the upgrade," says Ray Badminton, desktop business manager at Dell. In addition Compaq, Packard Bell and IBM also have sites that tell customers how to upgrade comparatively painlessly.

Nevertheless, some people who have been looking at Windows 98 intensely believe it should be avoided at all costs.

"Our advice to clients has been that Windows 98 does not offer compelling reasons to upgrade. We have said not to do it," advises Michael Gartenberg, research director of the end-user computing division at Gartner Group, the international research company.

Asked if this advice applies to ordinary users, he responded: "Absolutely. I tell friends and family don't do the upgrade. For most people the risk-benefit ratio is just not there. You should only do it if you need a feature in there and then only if your vendor [computer manufacturer] has support in place."

The installation problems come back to an age-old peril of the computer industry - compatibility. When manufacturers make new machines, they try to get the best out of your investment by tweaking the hardware to run a little better with the operating system. The trouble is

everyone has their own tweak. Come the day you need a new operating system, it may not work with your tweak.

The biggest problems centre around a part of the computer control system called the BIOS, a tiny piece of programming which tells

your individual computer how to communicate with its operating system. This has caused problems particularly for portable computer users. Windows 98 comes with an "improved" power management system; the trouble is it does not seem to be not working with a con-

siderable number of portables. What is more, power-saving features, such as stopping the hard disk spinning in portables after they have been idle for a few minutes (which worked fine under Windows 95), can stop working under the new Windows 98 power management

Yahoo! Now we're billionaires

BYTES

ANDY OLDFIELD

JERRY YANG last week followed the example of his fellow Yahoo! co-founder, David Filo, when he became the latest Internet executive to join the billionaire club. Filo, who owns a 12.8 per cent stake, became a billionaire when stock prices reached \$173.50 per share the previous Thursday. Yang, with a 12.2 per cent stake, had to wait a couple of days longer.

At the close of trading last Monday, Yang ended the day worth \$1.14bn on paper, while Filo's net worth stood at \$1.2bn, based on Yahoo!'s closing price of \$199.25. Yahoo! was founded in 1994 and went public in April 1996.

Both new billionaires are some way behind the Microsoft chairman, Bill Gates, whose net worth is estimated at around \$50bn.

STEVE JOBS, Apple Computer's "acting" CEO, who was supposed to deliver the keynote address via a satellite link from the West Coast, turned up in person instead at New York's Macworld Expo last week. He told a crowd of about 2,500 Mac faithful that demand for Macintosh products continues to outstrip supply and that when figures are revealed this week, Apple will record a profit for the third consecutive quarter - its best streak since 1985.

In a speech that reviewed the company's recovery from near-death a year ago, Jobs outlined Apple's forward-looking product strategy aimed at its core graphic design, education and consumer markets. He said that to date, Apple



Jerry Yang (left) and David Filo have netted a billion on the net

had sold 750,000 of its G3 Power Macintoshes, and tens of thousands of its new Powerbook G3 lap-tops. Apple had moved beyond survival and was now once more looking at growth, he said.

Software developers were returning to the Macintosh platform, Jobs said, adding that the innovative iMac, due for release on 15 August with a 56kbps modem, rather than the 33.6kbps device originally announced, could become the first Macintosh to win over current Windows users. Apple executives also said that a new version of the Macintosh operating system, OS8.5, will be released in September.

COMPAQ COMPUTERS, which recently founded the BioAPI

Consortium to promote standards for body-based identification technologies, outlined a new security system last week that will allow users to log on to PC networks by using fingerprint scanning instead of typing a password.

"It's the first commercial, widely available technology of its kind," said Hedy Baker, a Compaq spokesperson. The "biometric" fingerprint recognition system is due to ship in August and will be about half the size of a PC mouse. A finger is placed against its reader and scanned by a camera. If the 3D image matches the image stored in its database, access will be given.

Productivity as well as security is claimed to be improved, since up to half of corporate help-desk calls are made as the result of forgotten

passwords. The software for the system comes from a company called Identifier, and will be the first in a series of products the company intends to market.

The device and software will cost just under \$100 per workstation. The system currently supports only Windows NT 4.0, but will soon be compatible with Novell Netware, said Michael Takemura, Compaq's product manager.

NETSCAPE COMMUNICATIONS said last week that it is teaming up with Time Warner to raise the profile of its Netcenter portal. A marketing agreement, worth about \$10m, was announced involving three Time Warner movie web sites: Warner Brothers Online, Paramount Digital and Hollywood Online.

The sites will promote a Netcenter e-mail newsletter that will offer movie reviews, trivia, and sweepstake prizes. Netcenter will also be promoted via print and radio.

"This is the first in a series of major partnerships to promote Netcenter," said Mike Homer, Netscape's executive vice-president. "We are also in negotiations to expand our consumer offerings." He added that Netscape is talking to content providers such as CBS, Walt Disney and Fox about finance, sports, entertainment and also local information channels.

PETER MANDELSON, Minister without Portfolio, praised British Web designers at the third annual Yell Web Awards at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in Piccadilly last week. "I had not quite realised, until I had seen the material for today's event, quite

how high and innovative the standards have become in this area," Mr Mandelson said. "I hope these awards will really help to raise the profile of UK design, and UK capabilities on the Internet."

This is London, <http://www.thisislondon.co.uk>. The Evening Standard's online publication and city guide, was named Site of the Year and Best Online Publication. Most Innovative Web Site was awarded to CyberTranscriber (<http://www.speechmachines.com>) - an online transcription service allows users to dictate over the phone a memo or letter which is converted into text and e-mailed back. No award was made for Best Online Banner Ad as the judges decided none of those entered were of a high enough standard.

US ENCRYPTION export rules will be modified within a few months to allow sales of strong encryption software to overseas financial institutions, the Clinton administration said last week.

The Commerce Secretary, William Daley, said US software companies would be permitted to sell encryption products of any strength, without built-in key-recovery systems, to banks, securities firms, credit-card companies and other financial institutions in 45 approved countries, including all major industrial countries but not Russia, China or Mexico.

To make it on to the list, officials said, a country must participate in anti-money laundering initiatives with the US or have enacted strong anti-laundering laws. "This action gives our nation's financial institutions the flexibility they need to remain globally competitive," Daley said.

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MY TECHNOLOGY

It's a funny old World Wide Web

Comedian Joe Pasquale couldn't bear to be away from the Internet when he was on tour. Since he got his Toshiba laptop, he's laughing

EVERYTHING IS so technologically advanced that we base our lives on it. My sister had a baby last week and it came out cordless. There you go, the only technology gag in my stand-up routine.

The best thing for me, as a comedian, is that the lap-top stores material in a database. For instance, I use a lot of props when I work, millions of them. When previously I would go into the garage and hunt through stuff like a madman, I can now keep track very easily. At the moment, the Internet is a great help with a project I am doing. I am arranging a play and through the Internet we contact agents and get background it. Letters and so on would have made it a much more lengthy process.

The lap-top was bought about a

year ago, but I had a PC about 18 months before that. When I got the PC I knew nothing about it. When the bloke dropped the thing off, I asked him to show me how it worked. He switched it on and vanished, sharpish. It was used as a night light for quite a while. No, only joking. In the end I got a few books out of the library and taught myself.

It took about a year to become technically competent. I have learnt from trial and error. There are many idiot guides to this and that but unless you are used to the jargon they give few clues. So I used the basic ones and worked my way up. It was made more difficult because you receive so much conflicting advice. Basically, I decided to go on my own instinct. One major piece of advice I do follow is to back up. Last

year I lost everything I had in a storm, but luckily it had all been copied. The only downside to it is that it is so time consuming.

In the end, the reason why I got the lap-top was that I did not want to be away from the Internet while I was on tour. I sound like an anorak, but, as everyone says, and I will say again, it is a mine of information. It has no particular influence on gags, but it does make available great

comedy bookshop sites for books that cannot be got easily over here. The lap-top has a small and compact carrying case and most theatres are not against you plugging it into the phone line. They send you a bill.

E-mails are fantastic. Here is my handy hint, a program called ICQ, which is like the One-to-One mobile phone service. If someone else has the program and you can send them it via e-mail, once you go online it then lets you know the other person is online. It points to the future; sooner or later normal phones will be obsolete.

The lap-top market develops so quickly, you just can't keep up. When I bought this one, batteries only lasted on average for two hours; it is now much longer.

You could forever update, but you must get a machine you are happy with and stick with it. I also

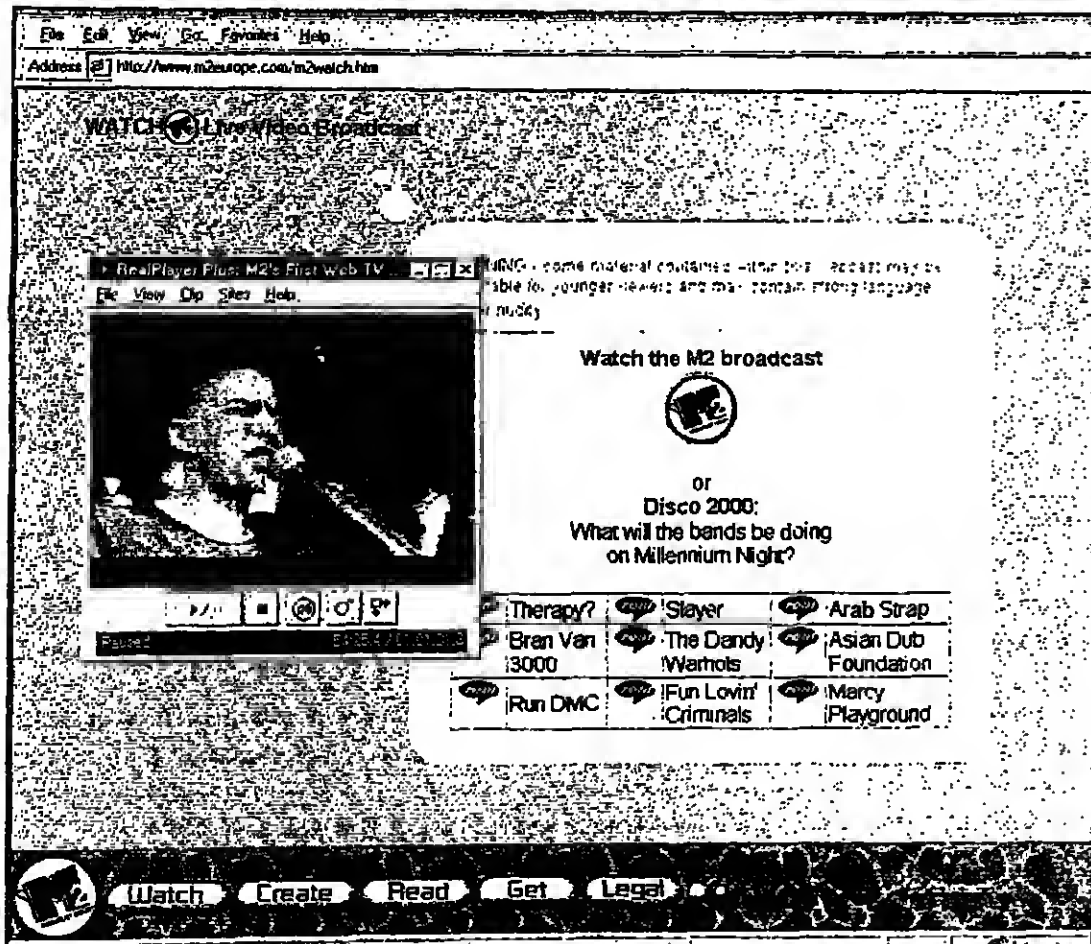


Sit-down comedian Joe Pasquale: 'Most theatres are not against you plugging your laptop into the phone line. They send you the bill'

Joe Pasquale was talking to Jennifer Rodger

No traffic jams on M2

MTV, the groundbreaking cable music channel, is using the World Wide Web as a launchpad for its interactive digital offering. By Jennifer Rodger



MTV, THE cable channel that revolutionised the music industry in America, plans to launch M2, its new television channel, on the Internet. Viewers will get a taste of M2, currently available only in the US, on the Web from 3 August.

"M2 is about new and innovative ways of making music television, which makes the idea of premiering the channel on the Internet irresistible," said Peter Good, managing editor of M2. "TV and the Internet are converging and M2 will be the pioneers of this new age."

The digital television version of M2 will be launched in Europe in October as a subscription channel. MTV is hoping that the M2 website will draw potential viewers to the fuller version on the digital television channel. "I also believe the kind of people who are heavy users of the Internet will also have an interest in new technology, in digital television and are more likely to be the kind of

people who are interested in watching M2," Good said at the launch of M2 in London last week.

"M2 is what we call a 'freeform' music channel, which means that it doesn't apply any of the set rules or policies that you'd normally associate with music on a television station or on a radio station. What we want to do is give the whole channel a hand-programmed feel."

M2's shows will be presented and programmed by journalists, artists and designers, encouraging a "behind the scenes" ethos commonly used to blur the boundaries between the viewer and the screen. One example is the feature in which directors describe making a music video, providing a glimpse into the often chaotic creative process rather than just the seamless end result. One clip amusingly shows the normally unflappable Jarvis Cocker admit that the genesis of an Aphex Twin video was more the result of a

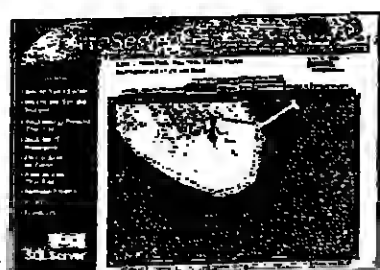
generator breakdown than a product of artistic direction.

MTV plans to use M2 as a space in which new ideas can be tried out. "The fact that the Internet is an

'Television and the Internet are converging and M2 will be the pioneers of this new age'

interactive medium makes it an ideal place to experiment, and to try to translate ideas from the website on to the TV service," Good said. "We wanted to launch M2 on the Internet to send a really clear message that M2's Web site is an important part of the channel rather than

Showing off on a truly global scale



WEB SITES

BILL PANNIFER

TerraServer
<http://www.terra-server.com/microsoft.com/>
This latest Microsoft monster enlists the entire planet as a promotional tool for the company's new, high-capacity database system.

Though at present confined to selected US and European areas, the site aims to provide high-definition aerial and satellite coverage of most of the earth. It will do so almost incidentally, as a means to show off the "world's largest online database" and its potential for interaction with ordinary PCs — 20 million hits a day are currently claimed.

Particular locations can be found using an Encarta-based map, or by name search, and there are user-friendly links to selected famous places such as the Statue of Liberty, the Grand Canyon, "Venice, Italy" and Redmond, Washington. The monochrome images, from American and declassified Soviet surveillance sources, can be viewed for free, though most cost a few dollars to download. The zoom facility and resolution levels allow a single tree to be picked out in a suburban street.

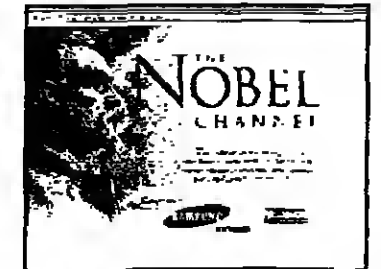
The Centre for Citizenship
<http://home.clara.net/citizen/>
Here's the real "lowdown on Britain" from the Centre for Citizenship, a new organisation with the air of a one-man crusade against the monarchy, the House of Lords, our lack of written constitution and other inequities. Pitched at deluded Anglophiles worldwide, with the aim of embarrassing those back home who resist change, the scope is vague but seemingly limitless: "our objectives are wider than the achievement of a republican democracy", it claims — but that will do for a start, surely?

Quotes from Blake, Tom Paine and Dylan preface the assault, which ranges from unarguable logic to overextended satire (the Royal family as mafiosi), and for good measure throws in Nazi collaboration by Channel Islanders during the Second World War, and the Isle of Man's former penitentiary for flogging. The most interesting section accuses the UK media of overly negative and critical coverage of events in the US, a tendency the site calls a defence against change.

The Nobel Channel
<http://www.nobelchannel.com>
Multimedia-rich and demanding a fast connection, this sophisticated site is based on Swedish television archives and features a "Nobel Theater" with video clips of prize winners from Marie Curie to Woyze Slonka; 3D panoramas

of Nobel's lab and estate; and a "learning studio" offering a series of online lessons from laureates.

Frequent updates are planned, though some pages — a time line relating Nobel achievements and historical and cultural events — are still underdeveloped. Asa Briggs' biography brings out the complexity of Alfred Nobel himself, inventor of dynamite and the Peace Prize. No link here, however, to the distinctly low-bandwidth Ig Nobel Prizes site (http://www.eecs.harvard.edu/ig_nobel/). This annual spoof gives prizes for the most pointless scientific endeavours, and honours those whose achievements cannot or should not be reproduced. One of last year's winners was a paper entitled "Chicken Plucking as a Measure of Tornado Wind Speed".



Common Currency
<http://www.poetrysociety.com>
The "interactive European poetry translation" promised here refers to online discussion by writers and readers, and not to some fiendishly clever software for turning out Catalan versions of Rilke. It does come complete with lottery funding and an approving note from Chris Smith. And the chance to

take literally a Tarantino reference: the invitation to "Get Mediaeval with the Translation of the Week" refers to Janet Shirley's new version of the Chanson de Roland, sampled and compared here.

A section logs various amusing infelicities: in Danish, the phrase "a steaming plate of curry" can emerge as "a liver-paste Hambe". Last week, translation into HTML was proving problematic on certain pages.

There is, however, a link to The Dialectizer (<http://www.rinkworks.com/dialect/>), which will automatically translate poems, or indeed whole websites, into redneck, jive, cockney, Elmer Fudd, Swedish chef, moron, or, should you require it, pig Latin.

David Cope — EMI
<http://arts.ucsc.edu/faculty/cope/>
This US music professor has been developing his EMI (Experiments in Musical Intelligence) software since 1982. Cope is a prolific modern composer whose orchestral works, praised as "dissonant" and "furious", also include unusual instrumentation such as prayer stones and sheep-bone mallets. He is also deviser of a program called Sara (Simple Analytic Recombinant Algorithm), which is able to analyse musical examples from specific sources and then produce new compositions in the same style.

Bartok, Brahms, Chopin, Prokofiev, Scott Joplin and more are here expertly but mechanically pastiched by a computer plugged directly into a Yamaha Disklavier keyboard, and the results are available in a "listening booth" for playback or downloading.

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The entrepreneurial spirit of Israel, along with an influx of Russian talent, has created a booming information technology industry with so much potential that it might provide impetus to the peace process. By Mark Vernon

Land of milk, honey and hi-tech

WHEN AMERICA Online completed its purchase of Mirabilis to the tune of \$287m last week, it also closed another chapter in the continuing story of successful IT start-up companies from Israel. The hi-tech industry has boomed on this thin stretch of land between the eastern Mediterranean and the Jordan valley.

Companies as Net-worthy as any emerging from Silicon Valley have found here the entrepreneurial spirit required to flourish. But today these start-ups, along with more established IT players, are holding their breath. The hiatus in the peace process is giving them cause for concern. Once more there is the threat of political instability, the worst enemy of young business.

Daniel Bloch, director of the Israel Export Institute, explains that three factors have dominated in the dramatic expansion of the IT economy, which, having doubled in size in the last 10 years, now represents about 30 per cent of Israel's exports and 7 per cent of GDP.

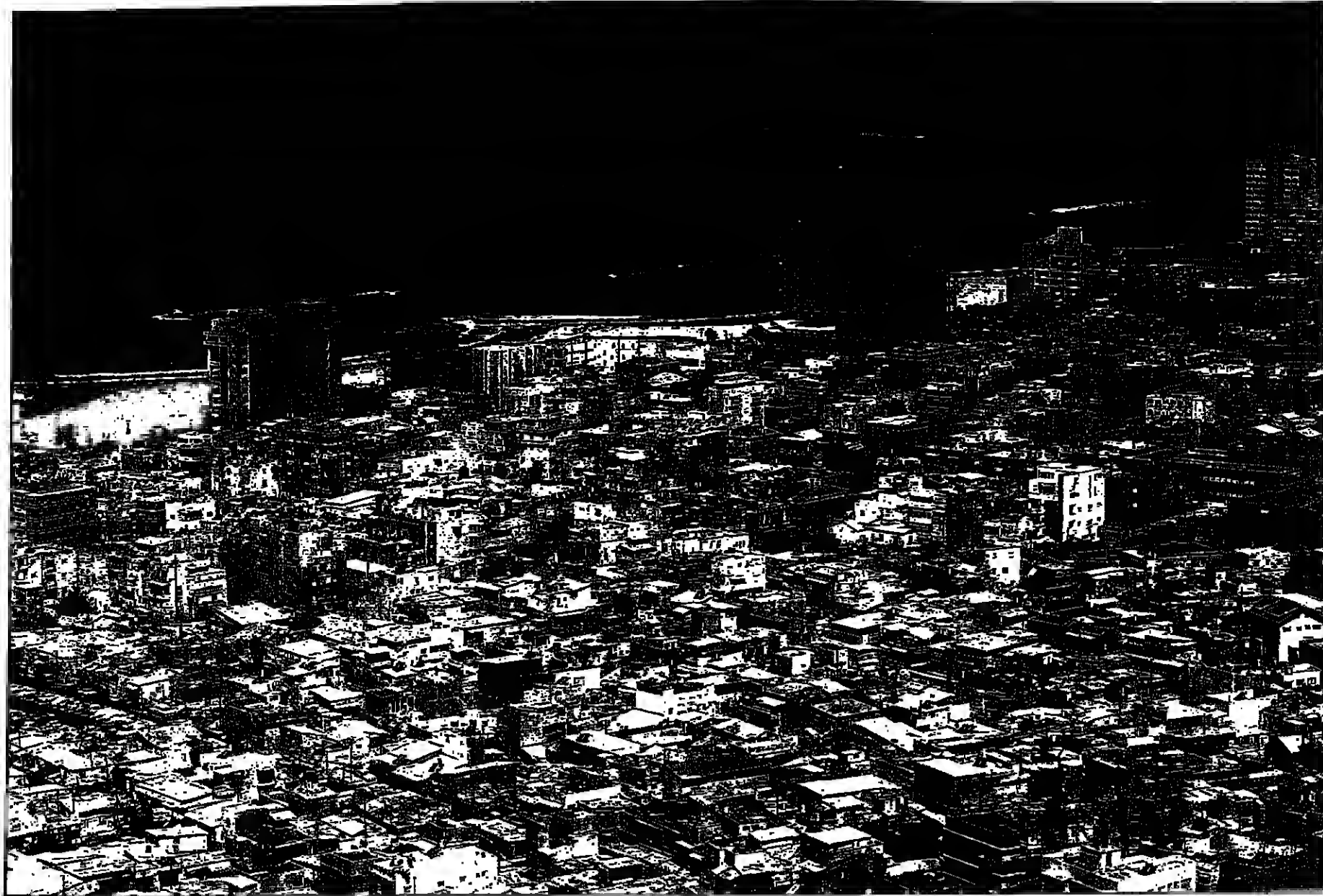
The ground was set for commercial growth with the end of the Cold War. As the military interest in high technology began to shrink, the industries that fed this demand needed a new outlook. Initially, it was found in a civilian market for optics and lasers, but the bulk of demand is now for information technology.

The collapse of communism unleashed a massive wave of immigration of Diaspora Jews from Russia and Eastern Europe. More than a million people entered Israel and brought with them a range of skills, notably in science and technology. The regime that put the first satellite in space, for all its ills, was also an administration that placed a high value on education in these disciplines. One of socialism's lasting legacies to the capitalist world is intellectual resources ready for the rigours of a knowledge-based economy. And Israel has gained enormously from it.

The irony continues on another level too. In that many of these people learnt their skills working for the KGB, Moshe Eger, vice-president of Mercury Interactions, a company that produces software for testing systems, notably for year 2000 compliance, says that 30 per cent of his research and development team came from Russia.

"They are fabulous UNIX programmers, software-compilers and bug-bashers," Eger maintains. Not that he is unwary of the corruption that can also seep in from the former Soviet Union.

"There is a substantial black market in qualifications," he says. "I had one guy come to me with a supposed doctoral degree from St Petersburg. My six-year-old nephew knew more about IT than he did."



Areas of Tel Aviv (above) have seen extensive redevelopment thanks to hi-tech entrepreneurs such as Aryeh Finegold (above right)



number of schemes are under way to retrain these people for IT jobs. The possibilities for individuals in the sector are enormous - in one Saturday newspaper, over 95 per cent of the vacancies advertised were for hi-tech positions.

To the young, a job in technology looks good too. A number of IT companies have close relationships with universities and research institutes, notably Technion, in the northern port of Haifa, and the Weissman Science Institute in Tel Aviv. To date, these have generally taken the form of research programmes, but lately some companies have also begun to sponsor individuals in undergraduate degrees. The prospect of a debt-free university career followed by a job in Israel, within which there is plenty of opportunity to travel abroad makes its own pitch to the up and coming.

Moreover, the sector offers the real prospect of making a fortune. Israel is not short of its own aspiring Marc Andreessens, founder of Netscape. The twentysomethings at Mirabilis have just seen their IQ Internet chat software earn them several million dollars a piece from the sale to AOL.

Israel has been fast on to the Internet and electronic commerce bandwagon. Although companies like Checkpoint Software, now an \$82m security systems corporation, were the early pioneers, it is companies such as BackWeb, developers of fashionable "push" technology, and Vocalife, owning a lucrative Internet telephone solution, that are now stealing the limelight.

It was these companies that made Israel the seventh-largest country present at CeBIT, Europe's largest hi-tech trade show, in Hannover earlier this year, that are winning the country an international reputation for innovation, and that make one of the strongest arguments for turning the political eye to the future, to start the peace process again.

The third factor that has boosted Israeli IT recently is the peace process, and the lack of progress since Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated gives the business community serious cause for concern. Commercial enterprises are now some of the biggest lobbyists against the Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's resistant stance on moves towards peace.

After the Oslo Accord, venture capital flooded into the country, with dozens of companies setting up. Other corporations opened major operations in parts of the country that were desperately in need of investment, such as Intel in the Negev and Siemens in Carmel. The government continued with its generous incentives scheme.

"These injections of cash do a tremendous amount to encourage

the expansion of the local economy," Mr Bloch says. "Not only has IT provided jobs for people formerly employed in floundering industries such as textiles, but constructing new plants and offices has the knock-on effect of building up the infrastructure of the immediate environment, too."

Nowhere has been a bigger beneficiary of this than Tel Aviv. "One part of the city, Ramat Hachayal, was extremely run down but, following the active encouragement of hi-tech companies, it now has good roads and restaurants," he adds.

Not that the incentive schemes are without their critics. Intel, for example, while investing \$1.5bn, also received a hand-out of \$500m from the government, which led to some debate as to its justification. "The point, though, is that it benefits

everybody," Mr Bloch argues. "Intel even supports programmes in the community, like an annual concert, which is pretty good for companies just setting up in an area."

Aryeh Finegold is one of Israel's IT entrepreneurs, having been involved in starting up a number of companies. He finds the Israeli character ripe for entrepreneurial success. His own best piece of business advice was learnt while fulfilling three years of national service. "You had better start running or you are going to take the bullet," his boot camp sergeant told him. "Also, people are ready to change direction quickly. They believe that in business you shouldn't be too religious. That is for the synagogue."

The parallels with Silicon Valley are significant, too. "The weather is good. Both places have received

large numbers of immigrants wanting to make a life for themselves," Finegold says. "This also brings in a range of ethnic groups, which makes for productive cross-fertilisation." He points out that the largest foreign population of students in California's Stanford University is Israeli, to demonstrate the interaction between the two powerhouses of IT. But he also notes that attitudes differ too.

"The big difference is the commitment you find to a company. In the US, if your CV says you have stayed with one organisation for three years it is a problem. In Israel, if it says three years you are regarded as a job-hopper." Clearly, this brings an advantage of stability to the Israeli company. And the benefits do not stop there.

Another good reason why

Finegold prefers to keep his research and development programmes active outside of Silicon Valley is because, as he puts it, "you can keep secrets in Israel."

But Israel's IT industry faces its own problems, too. It has a Silicon graveyard of failed companies that failed to market their products effectively or suffered a cash-flow crisis. A global shortage of skills is also one of the key issues facing the sector today.

Bloch reports that Israel is short of several thousand trained IT people, and that even the well of Russian talent has more or less dried up. The country has therefore devised unique solutions to the problem. Many other professions find themselves with a skills surplus; for example, the medical profession, which has an overflow of doctors. A

Next time, please, a tighter World Cup Web

The international world of soccer, it seems, has scored a few shocking own goals on the Internet. By Andy Oldfield

THE WORLD Cup on the Web was not a rich multimedia experience. Fifa and the European Broadcasting Union saw to that by refusing to allow live action broadcasts.

Broadcast.com (<http://www.broadcast.com/sports/worldcup98/>) apologised for the lack of coverage that is their stock in trade, but raised in the first round hopes were raised on their front page: "Coming soon - daily video highlights from ITN." As the first round drew to a close the video clips were still "coming soon", but by the second round that splash had gone, leaving only BBC World Service news snippets to peruse instead.

Disconcertingly, for World Service purists, these were preceded by unwelcome material, such as lengthy advertisements for hotel chains. However, the phone-ins from Radio Jamaica after the first round exit of the Reggae Boyz provided some consolation.

The only live broadcasts were those provided by people hooking up their own radios and illegally re-broadcasting via RealAudio. Word of mouth and hanging around dodgy newsgroups were the only way to find out where these were happening, though.

The Fans Page (<http://www.english98.com/fans/index.html>) tried their best. They promised live commentary on all England games and, for the first two matches, they proved to be more amusing than anything provided by inane television commentators: more Alan Partridge than Brian Moore. The text commentary on

England versus Tunisia and then Romania was partisan, opinionated and a delight.

Not far off the pace, either, Hag's booking in the Romania game took a mere 13 seconds to find its way

Perhaps Webcast rights and e-mail list technology will be sorted out by the time we reach Euro 2000

on to the screen. Hypertext links to still photographs of goals and dramatic incidents were inserted into the text only minutes after they had occurred on the pitch. It hung together nicely, in a fanish, laddish sort of way.

Unfortunately, for the final first-round match against Colombia there was a notice to say that the service had been discontinued for "legal reasons", but if they could find a way round it, they would be back in business. No way round was found, which meant that by the second round, the message board was all that was left for instant demonstration of Beckham (or Ince and Batty - opinions were varied but forceful). Cyberfans felt at one with travelling England fans who had turned up in St Etienne without a ticket and found that not only could they not get into the ground to see England go out on penalties; they

could not even get to watch on a big screen en masse, and had to make do with crowding into a bar to watch events on an ordinary television set.

Straightforward results and information services had it easier. And, for the most part did their job well. Yahoo! (<http://www.yahoo.co.uk/>) and SportsWeb (<http://www.sportsweb.com/worldcup/index.html>) consistently came out as the quickest at posting results. The official World Cup site, France 98 (<http://www.france98.com/>), was probably the slowest at updating. Sometimes it was as much as eight minutes in arrears, but traffic was high. On 22 June, the day when England beat Tunisia, 59 million hits were recorded as having been made on the site, an average of 683 per second.

The online newspapers, with their mix of analysis, commentary and results, were mostly trouble free as they delivered the goods. However, the football.guardian.co.uk (<http://football.guardian.co.uk/>) managed to score an own goal with its promised daily five o'clock e-mail round-up of all the news. By the semi-finals, I had received only seven e-mails, and they mostly turned up around noon the day after they had been posted. One of them did arrive at 5pm - but that hardly counts, as it was eight days after it had been sent.

Perhaps Webcast rights and e-mail list technology will be sorted in time to make the Net more than a flashy version of Teletext by the time we reach Euro 2000.

Finding your way with frames

THE LAST time I mentioned frames in this column, I received a storm of letters denouncing the use of what I still insist is one of the most useful techniques on the Web.

To be fair, I did omit one of frames' greatest shortcomings: the inability to bookmark your exact location within a website that uses frames. The problem with bookmarking frames is that the bookmark will record the URL for the frame document regardless of what particular HTML documents happen to be loaded in it at the time. This means that you will always return to the beginning of the site. So I went to the laboratory and, after months of diligent research and experimentation, I am now ready to share with you a partial solution to that pressing dilemma.

While we cannot change the way bookmarks work - that has to be done by the browser manufacturers - we can use JavaScript and hypertext links to tell the frame document what content needs to be loaded into which frame, and then bookmark that.

The first we have to do is to set up our frame document using this code:

```
<HTML>
<SCRIPT LANGUAGE="JavaScript">
document.write
(<FRAMESET
ROWS="50, 50">);
document.write
(<FRAME SRC="title.html"
NAME="title">);
document.write
(<FRAME SRC=" +
```

WEB DESIGN



JASON CRANFORD TEAGUE

I can share with you a partial solution to the frames dilemma

```
(location.search ?
location.search.
substring(1):content1.html") + "
NAME="content">);
document.write
(<FRAME SRC="menu.html"
NAME="menu">);
document.write
(<FRAME SRC=" +
```

Save this as "frames.html". The first thing that you will notice is that we are using JavaScript to "write" all of the HTML code on to the screen. When executed, this code sets up a framed document with three rows. The first and third frames are fairly ordinary. It is the middle frame where the action is taking place.

The middle frame, called

"content", will search the location (ie, URL) of the document being loaded into the window.

It will use as the source for this frame anything in the URL after a question mark. If there is no such question mark, it uses "content.html" as its default source.

Now whenever we link to this frameset, we can now specify the exact document that we want to appear in the content frame, thus:

```
<A
HREF="frames.html?content2.
html" TARGET="content">goto
Content 2</A>
```

This link opens the frames.html document, which in turn will use the file content2.html in the content frame. Notice that TARGET="content" has been used to make sure that this link will never load into another frame, but instead will load into the entire window. If you have ever pointed one mirror into another you can get a feeling of what it looks like when you nest one frame document inside another frame document inside another frame document... It's very disorienting. The general rule of thumb is: don't do it.

Without this technique, if you wanted to link to a version of this frame document with a particular HTML document in the content frame, you would have to set up a separate version of the frame document for each different HTML document you wanted to link

to. Now you only need this one frame document, and you can direct any HTML document you want into its content frame. However, the really brilliant thing about this technique is that when visitors bookmark a framed document accessed in this way, they get the URL with the hit after the question mark as well as the location of the frame document. Then, when visitors call up this bookmark it brings them back to the framed document with this content, and not the default content.

You could do all of your links this way, thus insuring that whenever visitors bookmark a page, they will always get back to where they want to be. The downside to that situation, of course, is that it means each frame will have to reload with the use of every hypertext link. This not only slows down the website, it is also highly annoying to the user.

Instead, I would recommend that you use this technique whenever linking between different sections or parts of your website. Visitors may not get exactly where they want to be, but they will be a lot closer than if they had had to start at the beginning.

If you have problems with the code presented here (it doesn't always transfer to the old medium of print), I have placed a live version of this example and the HTML code at www.webbedenvironments.com/examples/27.html.

E-mail your comments or queries to Jason Cranford Teague at indy_webdesign@mindspring.com.

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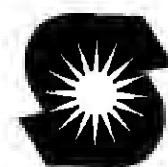
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Please quote reference NPL/CISEISE.

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Information Technology Centre

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For informal discussion, contact:

Dr. G. Lyons, Director IT Centre, Tel: 353-91-750382.

Further information may be obtained from:

The Personnel Office, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland.

Tel: 353-91-750360; Fax: 353-91-750523;

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Closing date for receipt of
completed applications is Friday,
24th July, 1998.

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NEW FILMS

MOJO (15)

Director: Jez Butterworth
Starring: Aidan Gillen, Ian Hart
There is a moment in *Absolute Beginners* when the director, Julien Temple, pays homage to *Rear Window* by moving the camera across the exterior of a Soho building, dipping into the vignettes unfolding in each office. One of them shows Lionel Blair as a salacious music impresario grooming his junior Elvis and drooling over the boy's snake-hips, snarl and quiff. That detail reminds us that behind every young blade in pop lurked pimps who made a point of sampling the goods they were flogging. The new British film *Mojo*, which Jez Butterworth has directed and adapted from his own play, reveals what we might have seen if Temple had manoeuvred his camera inside that office, down the stairs, across the dancefloor and into the dim back rooms. *Mojo* is set in a mythologised 1960s Soho which lacks grubby realism with rococo glamour. Insignificant Teddy boy Sidney (Aidan Gillen) pops pills and dreams of America; his sidekick, Sweets (Martin Gwynn Jones), is a jittery boy, easily impressed; their boss, Ezra (Ricky Tomlinson), is a blarney of a man who knows what's good for business. The film never entirely escapes its theatrical roots, and while it may linger in the shadow of *Reservoir Dogs*, it concentrates on a sexual tension which American crime movies generally shy away from. CW: Plaza, Warner Village West End

SLING BLADE (15)

Director: Billy Bob Thornton
Starring: Billy Bob Thornton, Robert Duval
See *The Independent Recommends*, right
CW: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket

TOUCH (15)

Director: Paul Schrader
Starring: Skeet Ulrich, Christopher Walken
Paul Schrader's adaptation of Elmore Leonard's most unclassifiable novel turns a breezy satire into a rather heavy-handed investigation into religious

conviction. Skeet Ulrich is an accidental saint who finds himself bleeding from stigmata and healing the disabled. A nice supporting cast gives the film some bounce - Christopher Walken as an unscrupulous promoter and Bridget Fonda as the woman who steals Ulrich's heart. CW: Plaza, UCI Whiteleys

KISS OR KILL (18)

Director: Bill Bennett
Starring: Frances O'Connor, Matt Day
Australian road movie-cum-serial-killer drama about a couple of scam merchants, one of whom may be a murderer. Pretentious in some places, it manages to be agreeably nasty in others. CW: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

GURU IN SEVEN (18)

Director: Shari Grewel
Starring: Saeed Jaffrey, Jacqueline Pearce
A dismal, witless British comedy which comes on like an Asian version of *Alfie*. A young chancer enters into an agreement to sleep with seven women in seven days in order to attain guru status. CW: ABC Piccadilly, Virgin Trocadero

MAD CITY (15)

Director: Costa Gavras
Starring: Dustin Hoffman, John Travolta
A despairingly simplistic work from the once inspiring film-maker Costa Gavras, who made *Z* and *State of Siege*. Dustin Hoffman is the weaselly reporter who chances upon a hostage situation in a museum, where disgruntled ex-employee, John Travolta, has produced a gun in an effort to get his job back. As the dispute escalates into a crisis, the film itself descends into a series of reflex attacks on the moral bankruptcy of television and, by extension, the late 20th century. CW: ABC Baker Street, Hammersmith Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Rd, Warner Village West End

Ryan Gilbey

GENERAL RELEASE

THE APOSTLE (12)

Director: Robert Duvall plunges into his role in a manner that is both terrifying and entrancing. West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square

THE BIG SWAP (18)

A drab, unconvincing and preachy drama about partner-swapping. West End: Plaza

CITY OF ANGELS (12)

Nicolas Cage plays an angel puzzling over whether or not to exchange his divinity for domestic bliss with a mortal woman (Meg Ryan). West End: ABC Baker St, ABC Tottenham Court Rd, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

DREAM WITH THE FISHES (18)

Take a suicidal loser preparing to throw himself off a bridge. Add a junkie with a month to live and give them a few months on the road together before an inevitable tearful farewell. Serve with a sick-bag at the ready. Perhaps it's the realisation that *Dream With The Fishes* could so easily have been a nightmare that makes its success seem refreshing and deserved. West End: Metro

GIRLS' NIGHT (15)

Shameless tearjerker with Brenda Blethyn as a cancer-suffering hunk who jets off to Las Vegas for a last-chance holiday with his sister-in-law (Julie Walters). CW: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15)

Jaunty take on the rites-of-passage genre, set in Leicester in the 1970s. The lively script is complimented by the sparkling performance of Joanna Ward as the film's heroine. West End: Rio Cinema

GREASE (20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION) (PG)

Twentieth anniversary reissue of the nostalgic musical. What fun there can be had from a second viewing is mostly due to John Travolta's manic performance as the greased-up high-school heartbreaker. CW: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

KURT & COURTNEY (15)

Compulsive documentary investigating the death of Nirvana's Kurt Cobain and the conspiracy theories surrounding it. CW: Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Warner Village West End

THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (15)

A mannered and vacuous dip into the life of the Beat poet Neal Cassady, played by Thomas Jane. There's lots of fast cutting and theatrical lighting, but the film just amounts to the same old Beat clichés. West End: ABC Piccadilly

LIVE FLESH (18)

A novel by Ruth Rendell is the origin of Pedro Almodovar's most accomplished film to date. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Gate Notting Hill, Curzon Minima, Odeon Camden Town, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND (15)

Comedy, starring John Hurt and Jason Priestley, concerned with the relationship between art and life. Writer-director Richard Kwietniowski takes great care in tracing the areas where they overlap. CW: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Iap, Odeon Kensington, Gate Notting Hill, Clapham Picture House, Gate Notting Hill, Curzon Metro, Renoir, Richmond Filmhouse, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Haymarket

MIMIC (15)

Mira Sorvino is a doctor who combats a virus that's sweeping New York by developing a rival that's sweeping species to wipe out the original disease-carriers in this ingenious science-fiction-horror. CW: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MY SON THE FANATIC (15)

Banif Kureshi establishes an opposition between a Pakistani taxi driver and his son, who has his sights set on becoming a fundamentalist Muslim. West End: ABC Swiss Centre

THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (15)

Romantic comedy in which Paul Rudd confounds Jennifer Aniston's dreams of weddings by turning out to be gay. CW: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

PALMETTO (15)

Harry Barber (Woody Harrelson) is the ex-con who gets mixed up with a pair of duplicitous women. CW: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

POINT BLANK (18)

Re-release of John Boorman's chilling existential thriller starring Lee Marvin. West End: Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green

PONETTE (15)

French tale of a four-year-old girl (Victoire Thivisol) whose mother dies in a car accident. Thivisol is superb, yet there's discomfort at watching one so young parade emotion this raw and primal. CW: Curzon Mayfair, Metro

THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (18)

Executive-produced by Hoog Koog action director John Woo, this is an attempt to launch the American career of his favourite star, Chow Yun-Fat. West End: Virgin Trocadero

SAVIOR (18)

Politically inept war film set in Bosnia. Dennis Quaid stars as a man who loses his family in a Paris bomb blast and avenges their deaths before becoming a hired killer. West End: Virgin Haymarket

SIX DAYS, SEVEN NIGHTS (12)

Impossibly contrived romantic comedy in which Harrison Ford plays a boozey pilot who crash-lands with a New York magazine editor (Anne Heche) on a remote island. CW: Barbican Screen, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

SOUL FOOD (15)

A black version of *Parenthood*, with all the attendant moralising, sentimentality and studied eccentricity which that implies. West End: Clapham Picture House, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero

STAR KID (PG)

Children's adventure about a young boy who's called upon to save the universe. What it lacks in budget it makes up for in imagination. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero

STIFF UPPER LIPS (15)

Spot of the Merchant/Ivory movies from one of the talents responsible for *Leon the Pig Farmer*. West End: Plaza, Virgin Chelsea

THE TASTE OF CHERRY (PG)

The joint winner of last year's Palme d'Or has taken a year to get a release over here, but thanks to highly naturalistic performances, it's a hypnotic and moving experience. West End: Renoir

THE WAR AT HOME (15)

Tale of a traumatised Vietnam veteran on his return home to Texas, adapted from James Duff's Broadway play. Homefront. CW: Plaza

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)

Unashamedly dumb but winning comedy about a romantic wedding singer (Adam Sandler) who falls for a waitress (Drew Barrymore). West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

Film Ryan Gilbey



MEET BILLY BOB Thornton: actor, writer, director and official friend of President Clinton from way back when. Thornton won an Oscar for his screenplay of *Sling Blade* in 1997, and now that the film has finally opened in Britain, you can see why. His performance as a mentally disabled loner (left) released into the world after a lifetime in what he calls "the nervous hospital" is astonishing enough; his directorial achievements elevate the film even further. A provocative story observed from a cool, analytical distance. On general release. A double-bill of work by the very wonderful Wong Kar-Wai would be unmissable on any day of the week, but his playful and balustrade brand of film-making is just the thing to perk you up on a drab Monday. *Fullen Angels* is a tawdry through the absurdities of Hong Kong life. *Happy Together*, his best film, is an intense and giddy gay love story. Riverside Studios, London W6 (0181-237 1111) 6.45pm

Theatre Dominic Cavendish

JON CONWAY'S Seventies jukebox-musical *Bogie Nights* struts into Northampton today, confidently expecting to work the same charm that has had retro addicts singing its praises over the last few months. Shane Richie holds it all together as the wannabe rock star, Roddy. Around whom spins a galaxy of glitterball bits. *Derogate Theatre*, Northampton (01604 624811) 8pm. Some critics have accused Our Lady of Sligo of being too bogged down in its own lyricism, but whatever the faults of Sebastian Barry's memory play, inspired by the life of his grandmother, there is plenty to relish in Max Stafford-Clark's production. Above all, a *tour de force* from Sinead Cusack (right), who wrings out every drop of disappointment from the dying alcoholic Catholic, Mai O'Hara. *Cottesloe*, Royal National Theatre, London, SE1 (0171-452 3000) 7.30pm



Visual Art Richard Ingleby



TWO LONDON galleries have teamed up to present simultaneous shows of works by Henri Matisse (right), one of the greatest of all the modern masters. Not surprisingly, the selection of prints and drawings is of a higher order than the few paintings that they have gathered together, but both shows are well worth a look. *Lumley Cazalet*, 33 Davies Street, London W1 (0171-491 4767) and Alan Cristea Gallery, 31 Cork Street, London W1 (0171-439 1866) to 1 Aug. Matisse crops up again in Picasso and Printmaking in Paris, a terrific selection of prints which effectively traces and explains all the main threads of modern art through the first half of the 20th century. As you'd expect, Picasso looms largest of all, but there are also some fine things by Miró and Braque, and a range of lesser knowns, including Chana Orloff and Jean-Emile Laboureur. *Hunterian Art Gallery*, University of Glasgow (0141 330 4735) to 19 Sept

Literature Judith Palmer



MUCH IMITATED but rarely understood, Pulitzer Prize-winners John Ashbery (right) and James Tate are the two true heavyweights of contemporary American poetry. Sharing a cool parodic wit, and a teasing intellectual flow of pop-cultural free-association, their poems are dauntingly dense on the page, but uncoil cheerily when read out, punctuated with hearty comic asides. As Ashbery once wrote, "there's a lot of fun to be had in the gaps between ideas". *Purell Room*, South Bank Centre, London SE1 (0171-960 4242) 7.30pm. No novelist gives a more animated reading than Beryl Bainbridge. Tonight she's performing vivid passages from *Master Georgie*, which starts off with a 12-year-old Liverpudlian orphan brushing dog hairs out of a tiger-skin rug and ends up amid the bevyheaded carnage of the Crimean battlefields with an unlucky fusilier, "the top of his head sliced off like he was a breakfast egg". *Old Kitchen*, Bishop's Palace, Chichester (01243 780192) 6pm

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0171-930 9772) • Baker Street Mad City 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm. Sliding Doors 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm. The Wedding Singer 6pm

ABC PANTON STREET (0171-930 0631) • Piccadilly Circus As Good As It Gets 3pm, 5pm, 8pm. The Big Lebowski 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm. Good Will Hunting 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.20pm. Confidential 8pm. Washington Square 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-930 3571) • Piccadilly Circus Guro In Seven 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm. Mrs Brown 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0171-930 6279) • Shaftesbury Square Kiss Or Kill 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm. Live Flesh 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

ABC SWISS COTTAGE (0171-433 4470) • Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus Deconstructing Harry 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm. Kundun 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm. Meet Frank, Daniel & Laurence 3.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm. My Son The Fanatic 1.10pm, 5.10pm. Shall We Dance? 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.40pm. Still Upper Lips 6.20pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0171-636 6148) • Tottenham Court Road City Of Angels 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm. Godzilla Thu 9.10pm. The Object Of My Affection 1.25pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 9.20pm. The Wedding Singer 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-382 7000) • Barbican Lane Love And Death On Long Island 6.15pm, 8.40pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 3pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) • Sloane Square Love And Death On Long Island 2.35pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 2342) • Clapham Common Girls' Night 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 7pm. Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 1.30pm, 4pm, 6pm. Love And Death On Long Island 6.15pm, 7.15pm. Bling Bling 2pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) • Green Park Titanic 2.30pm, 7.30pm

ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) • Elephant & Castle Deep Impact 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm. Godzilla Thu 5.45pm, 8.20pm. The Object Of My Affection 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0171-437 1234) • Leicester Square The Apollo 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm. Godzilla Thu 5.30pm, 8.40pm. Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.40pm. Sliding Doors 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.40pm, 8pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) • Notting Hill Gate Love And Death On Long Island 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-9070718) • Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith Grosse (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm. Mad City 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 9pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 1pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.30pm. The Wedding Singer 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm

METRO (0171-437 0757) • Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square Love And Death On Long Island 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm. Ponette 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

CURZON MINEMA (0171-369 1723) • Shaftesbury Square Live Flesh 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) • Notting Hill Gate Six Days, Seven Nights 3pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (0181-315 4239) • Camden Town City Of Angels 12.45pm, 6.05pm. Kiss Or Kill 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm. The Object Of My Affection 3.20pm, 8.45pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 12.15pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm. Sling Blade 1.45pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm. The Wedding Singer 12.05pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (0181-315 4212) • Piccadilly Circus The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (0181-315 4214) • High Street Kensington City Of Angels 7pm, 9.40pm. The Object Of My Affection 6.45pm, 9.30pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 7pm, 9.30pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0181-315 4216) • Marble Arch City Of Angels 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.45pm. Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.45pm. Mimic 12.25pm, 3.15pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm. The Object Of My Affection 12.25pm, 3.15pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (0181-315 4215) • Leicester Square As Good As It Gets 5.45pm, 8.25pm. Lolita 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Martha - Meet Frank, Daniel & Laurence 6.50pm, 9.05pm. Point Blank 6.30pm, 8.55pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (0181-315 4220) • Swiss Cottage The Big Lebowski 6.05pm, 8.35pm. City Of Angels 6pm, 8.40pm. Point Blank 6.35pm, 8.55pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 6.15pm, 8.45pm

ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) • Leicester Square The Object Of My Affection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

PHOENIX CINEMA (0171-437 0716) • East Finchley Live Flesh 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

PLAZA (0171-437 1234) • Piccadilly Circus Deep Impact 3.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm. Jackie Brown 4.15pm, 7.40pm. Mojo 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.20pm. Touch 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.15pm

RENOIR (0171-837 8402) • Russell Square Love And Death On Long Island 2.35pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm. The Taste Of Cherry 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

RIO CINEMA (0171-254 6677) • Dalston Kingsland Love And Death On Long Island 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm. The Taste Of Cherry 2.15pm, 6.45pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-727 2121/727 2229) BR • Brixton Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm. Kurt & Courtney 2.40pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.10pm. Live Flesh 7.05pm, 9.30pm. Magic Moments: Love And Death On Long Island 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm. (Short releases) Oscar And Lucinda 2.05pm. Sling Blade 3.15pm, 6.45pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-496 0036) • Baker Street Love And Death On Long Island 2.35pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm. The Object Of My Affection 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-727 3520) • Angel Highway & Kingsway Kurt & Courtney 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-436 2399) • Balize Park Love And Death On Long Island 3.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm. Short: Boy Boy

UCI WHITELEYS (0171-792 3332) • 85 Waterloo/Queensway City Of Angels 1.35pm, 6pm, 8.45pm. Girls' Night 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm. Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 4.05pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm. Mad City 3.30pm, 6.25pm, 9pm. The Object Of My Affection 2pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm. Sling Blade 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm. Sliding Doors 3.55pm, 6.45pm, 9.35pm. Touch 2.15pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm. The Wedding Singer 4.30pm, 6.55pm, 9.35pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA (0870-9070710) • Sloane Square/South Kensington The Object Of My Affection 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm. Sling Blade 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 8pm. The Wedding Singer 3pm, 5.20pm, 8pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD (0870-9070711) • South Kensington The Big Lebowski 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.30pm. City Of Angels 1.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.30pm. Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm. Mimic 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm. 9.50pm. The Object Of My Affection 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.45, 7.55pm, 10pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm. Sliding Doors 12noon, 4.45pm, 9.30pm. The Wedding Singer 12.30pm, 2.45pm, 4.50pm, 7.05pm, 9.20pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET (0870-9070712) • Piccadilly Circus Kiss Or Kill 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm. Love And Death On Long Island 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm. Sling Blade 2pm, 5pm, 8pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-9070716) • Piccadilly Circus City Of Angels 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm. Dark City 1.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.20pm. Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm. Mimic 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm. Soul Food 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.50pm

PECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye City Of Angels 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm. Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm. Mad City 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm. Mince 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 9pm. Soul Food 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm.

PURLEY
ABC (0870-902 0407) BR: Purley The Object Of My Affection 3.40pm. Red Corner 8.20pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 5.10pm, 8.10pm. Sliding Doors 5.50pm, 8.40pm.

PUTNEY
ABC (0870 902 0401) Putney Bridge, City Of Angels 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm. The Object Of My Affection 1pm, 6pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm. The Wedding Singer 3.30pm, 8.30pm.

RICHMOND
ODEON STUDIO (0181-315 4218) BR: Richmond City Of Angels 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm. The Object Of My Affection 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm. The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 4pm, 7pm, 8.30pm.

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-902 0419) BR: Romford Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.10pm, 6pm, 8.30pm. The Object Of My Affection 2.25pm, 5.55pm, 8.15pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 2.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm.

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (01708-729040) BR: Liberty City Of Angels 12.40pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm. Deep Impact 12.15pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm. Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 12.30pm, 3pm, 6pm, 8.30pm. Mad City 12.50pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm. Mince 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm. The Object Of My Affection 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm. Seven Nights 1.30pm, 6.15pm. The Wedding Singer 12.10pm, 2.40pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm.

SIDCUP
ABC (041-555 131) BR: Sidcup Six Days, Seven Nights 2.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm. Sliding Doors 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.35pm.

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-907 0717) BR: Crickwood City Of Angels 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm. Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm. Mad City 3pm, 6pm, 8.45pm. The Object Of My Affection 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm. The Wedding Singer 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm.

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-902 0415) BR: Streatham Hill Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm. Mad City 2.25pm, 5.55pm, 8.45pm. Sliding Doors 2.25pm, 5.55pm, 8.45pm.

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR: Streatham Hill City Of Angels 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm. Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm. Mad City 3pm, 6pm, 8.45pm. The Object Of My Affection 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm. The Wedding Singer 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm.

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WOOLWICH
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm.

CINEMA

LONDON
CINE LUMIERE AT THE INSTITUT FRANCAIS Queensberry Place SW7 (0171-838 2144/2146) Rendez-Vous (NC) 7.30pm

ICA The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647/cc 0171-930 3647) Organ (NC) 2.30pm, 8.30pm. This Is Not An Exit: Bret Easton Ellis (NC) 5pm. Smoke Signals (NC) 7pm. Don't Look Back (NC) 9pm

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0274/cc 928 3232) Madame Butterfly (PG) 2.30pm. London In The Frame: In Fact: Shorts (NC) 6.15pm. Black Sabbath: Fantasm: Mario Bava (NC) 6.30pm. New Digital And Video Work From Germany: International Video (NC) 8.30pm. Gattaca (15) 8.45pm

PEPSI IMAX The Trocadero, Piccadilly Circus W1 (0171-494 4153/cc 494 4153) Across The Sea Of Time: A New York Adventure (3-D) (U) 11am, 1.05pm, 5.20pm. L5-City In Space (NC) 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm, 8.25pm. Everest (12) 3.20pm, 7.50pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) Dad Savage (15) 1pm. The James Gang (15) 3.30pm. Dark City (15) 6.15pm. Red Corner (15) 9pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road W6 (0181-237 1111/cc 420 0100) Fallen Angels (15) 6.45pm + Happy Together 8.45

BRIGHTON DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-626261) Afterglow (15) 6.30pm. Sliding Blade (15) 8.35pm, 9pm

BRISTOL WATERHEAD (0117-925 3845) The General (15) 5.45pm, 8.30pm. Sunset Cinema (15) 8.20pm

CARDIFF CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01223-399666) Amistad (15) 6.15pm. Love And Death On Long Island (15) 7.30pm. My Son The Fanatic (15) 8pm

CHICHESTER NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-786650) The First Wives Club (15) 4.15pm. The Wedding Singer (12) 9pm. Regeneration (15) 6.30pm

CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm. Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm.

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THEATRE

WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today: times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. 1—Sun, [3]; Tue, [4]; Wed, [5]; Thu, [6]; Fri, [7]; Sat

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lush family musical based on Disney's cartoon. Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) • Tottenham Court Road, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, £17.50-£32.50, 150 mins.

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical. Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) • Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Thu 3pm, Sat 4pm, £10.50-£29.50, 165 mins.

CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of T.S. Eliot's poems. New London Theatre, Park Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 404 4079) • Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Tue & Sat 3pm, £12.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

CHICAGO Ruthie Henshall stars in this hit Broadway musical. Adelphi Theatre, Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055) • Charing Cross, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, £16-£36 (inc booking fee), 130 mins.

CLOSER Superb study of contemporary sexual relationships. Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) • Piccadilly Circus, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £5-£27.50, 140 mins.

DR. DOLITTLE Philip Schofield talks to the animals in his new stage adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets. Laburnum Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-416 8022) • Tottenham Court Road, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£32.50, 150 mins.

GREASE Marissa Ounip stars in the stage version of the hit film. Cambridge Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-416 8022) • Tottenham Court Road, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£32.50, 150 mins.

HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE Paula Vogel's drama about the incestuous relationship between a teenager and her uncle. Donmar Warehouse, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-369 1732) • Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Thu & Sat 4pm, ends 8 Aug, £12-£16, concs available, 95 mins.

THE ICEMAN COMETH Kevin Spacey stars in Eugene O'Neill's classic testimony to the power of dreams. Old Vic, St. Martin's Lane, W1 (0171-494 5065) • St. Martin's Lane, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£32.50, 160 mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christopher Cazenove and Kate O'Mara in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy. Albany Theatre, St. Martin's Lane, W1 (0171-369 1730) • St. Martin's Lane, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £10-£32.50, 160 mins.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed production of J.B. Priestley's thriller. Garrick Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) • Leicester Square, Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, mats Wed 2.30pm, Sat 3pm, £10-£25, 110 mins.

KAT AND THE KINGS Musical set in 1950s Cape Town. Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, WC2 (0171-369 1732) • Charing Cross, Mon-Thru 8pm, Fri-Sat 8pm & 8.30pm, ends 1 Aug, £5-£25-£27.50, 130 mins.

A LETTER OF RESIGNATION Hugh Whithore's play about the Profumo affair and political morality. Savoy Theatre, Strand, WC2 (0171-369 1732) • Charing Cross, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat 4pm, £12-£25, 135 mins.

LES MISERABLES Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) • Piccadilly Circus, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat 2.30pm, £7-£32.50, 195 mins.

THE MIDSUMMERTIME HOURS Elaine Paige, Michael Pennington and Peter Bowles star. Piccadilly Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-369 1734) • Piccadilly Circus, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, continuing in rep, £8.50-£27.50, concs £12-£50, 140 mins.

MISS SAIGON Musical which retells the Madam Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) • Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed & Sat 3pm, £5-£32.50, 165 mins.

THE MOUSSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodunnit. St. Martin's Theatre, West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) • Leicester Square, Mon-Sat 8pm, mats 2.45pm, Sat 5pm, £9-£23, 135 mins.

MONDAY RADIO

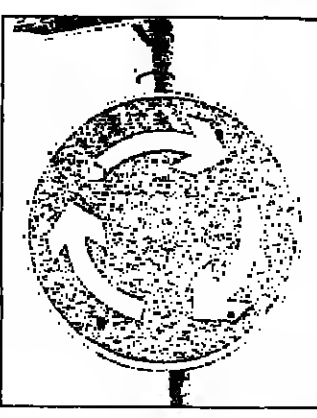
Radio 1
(57.9-58.8MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball
9.00 Simon Mayo, 12.00 Jayne Middlemiss, 2.00 Mark Radcliffe, 4.00 Dave Pearce, 6.30 Steve Lamacq - The Evening Session, 8.30 Global Update, 8.40 Gilles Peterson, 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs, 1.00 Charlie Jordan, 4.00 - 6.30 Clive Warren.

Radio 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy, 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan, 9.30 Ken Bruce, 12.00 Jimmy Young, 2.00 Ed Stewart, 5.05 John Dunn, 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton, 8.00 Big Band Special, 8.30 Jools Holland, 9.30 Joe Brown, 10.30 Richard Allison, 12.05 Steve Madden, 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

Radio 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air, 9.00 Masterworks, 10.30 Artist of the Week, 11.00 Sound Stories, 12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: Jean-Philippe Rameau, 1.00 The Lunchtime Concert, 2.00 The BBC Orchestras, 4.00 Sams at the Opera, 4.45 Music Machine, 5.00 In Tune, 5.30 Performance on 3. A concert given on Saturday in the Town Hall, featuring the premiere of a work which sets 19th-century southern Italian folk poetry on the subject of mourning. Catherine Wyn-Rogers (contralto), BBC Symphony Orchestra/Linda Kozma, Sibelius: Karelia Suite, Brian Elias: Lamentis (first performance), Tchaikovsky: Symphony No 6 in B minor (Pathephone), 9.30 Postscript. Four commissioned poems blending words and sound. 1: 'Spirit Machines' by Robert Crawford. (R) 9.30 In the Name of Bach. Music by lesser-known members of the Bach family, performed by Florilegium and Catherine Bott (soprano), 10.00 Voices. My Kind of Song: Patricia Routledge, Actress Patricia Routledge takes time off from sleuthing in Yorkshire as Betty Wainwright to talk to Iain Dowie about her favourite songs, including music by Bernstein, Purcell, Schubert and Rodgers and Hammerstein.

PICK OF THE DAY

QUIRKINESS is a fine quality in the right place, but it can be overdone. Cat among the Pigeons (9pm R4) zeroes in on an out-of-the-way subject - the humble traffic roundabout (right) - and generates some fascinating thoughts on cultural difference and the way our relationship with the car has developed over the years. Why was it that the roundabout never caught on in the United States? What do different countries do with the



space that's left in the middle? Unfortunately, the presenter, Paul Evans, seems determined to prove what a zany individual he is, with a succession of weak jokes and an apparent urge to apologise for long words. Before that, Analysis (8.30pm R4) takes a sceptical look at the Internet phenomenon. Is it the next stage in human evolution, or just a better way of crashing your computer?

ROBERT HANKS

10.45 Mixing It. Paris, the city that hosted the World Cup final yesterday, goes one better by hosting the final edition of Mixing It. Mark Russell and Robert Sandall explore the highways and byways of the capital's burgeoning music scene. 11.30 Jazz Notes, 12.00 Composers of the Week: William Byrd and Thomas Tallis, 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

Radio 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today, 9.00 Start the Week, 9.45 Serial: A Boy at the Hogarth Press. (R) 10.00 News; Woman's Hour, 11.00 News; Esprit de Corps, 11.30 Ballyhoo, 12.00 News; You and Yours, 12.57 Weather, 1.00 The World at One, 1.30 Words in Music, 2.00 News; The Archers, 2.15 News; Afternoon Play: London Particulars. (R) 3.00 Money Box Live, 3.30 A View with a Room, 3.45 Ways with Words, 4.00 News; The Food Programme, 4.30 Four Corners, 5.00 PM, 5.57 Weather, 6.00 Six O'Clock News, 6.30 Just a Minute, 7.00 News; The Archers, 7.15 Front Row, Francine Stock delivers the verdict on this summer's most hyped Hollywood blockbuster - will 'Godzilla' take British cinemas by storm? 7.45 Under One Roof: Schools

Out. By Wendy Lee, based on the original story by Michele Hanson. Children's school career is over and everyone but Gillian is in holiday mood - she has to face up to summer and the terrors of her bikini line. Part 1 of 5. With Paula Dionisotti, Edna Dore and Luisa Bradshaw-White. Director Tabitha Pitts. 8.00 News; The Beat. A series following community police officers at work in West Yorkshire. 2: A woman reports a violent assault and robbery, but as police officers in the town of Mirfield investigate, a very different picture begins to emerge. 8.30 Analysis. 'Virtual Reality Check'. Eight million Britons will soon be connected to the Internet. Ian Hargreaves asks whether it is just another step in communication or a revolution which will change our lives. See Pick of the Day. 9.00 News; Cat among the Pigeons. Two spirited enquiries into the British relationship with the landscape. 1: 'Magic Roundabouts'. Paul Evans looks at the history and untapped potential of the traffic island, where two contemporary obsessions - driving and gardening - converge. See Pick of the Day. 9.30 Start the Week. Conversation with Melvyn Bragg and guests. 10.00 The World at One, 10.45 Book at Bedtime. Setting the World on Fire. Simon Russell Beale reads Angus Wilson's social comedy about postwar aristocracy, theatre, architecture and anarchy. Abridged by Neville Teller. 11.00 Radio 4 Appeal. Jonathan

Dimbleby speaks on behalf of Leonard Cheshire, a charity which helps disabled people throughout the world.

11.02 Our Man at Wembley.

11.30 At the Foot of the Mountain

12.00 News

12.30 The Late Book: Every Secret Thing. (R)

12.48 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 As World Service.

5.30 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

Radio 4 LW
(98kHz)

9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service.

12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.

Radio 5 Live
(693, 909kHz MW)

6.00 The Breakfast Programme.

9.00 Nicky Campbell.

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Ruscoe and Co.

4.00 Nationwide.

7.00 News Extra.

7.30 Cricket Legends. In the second of six programmes, David Rayvern Allen profiles the life and career of Denis Compton.

8.00 Interesting. Very Interesting. Sporting comedy and chat with Garry Richardson, Peter Brackley and their guests. If you have an amusing tale to tell, call 0500 909693.

9.00 Take the Money and Run. John Inverdale investigates the links between sport and the lucrative world of marketing. Each year,

British companies spend forty million pounds on sponsorship, vying for that one square inch of space on a top star's T-shirt or baseball cap. Do they get value for money? And when you buy your next pair of trainers, are you the one who is footing the bill?

9.30 Voices of Sport. Ian Payne continues his series remembering the great sports commentators. 2: Alan Weeks - BBC Television's late lamented voice of ice skating and swimming. With contributions from Jane Torvill and Christopher Dean, David Wike, and Alan's widow, Jane.

10.00 Late Night Live. Including at 10.30 a full round-up of the day's sport, and at 11.00 a late news briefing.

1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

Classic FM
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)

6.00 Michael Mappin, 8.00 Henry Kelly, 12.00 Requests, 2.00 Concerto, 3.00 Jamie Cullum, 6.30 Newsnight, 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven, 9.00 Evening Concert.

11.00 Alan Menz, 12.00 Concerto, 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

Virgin Radio
(125.137-125.334MHz MW 105.8MHz FM)

7.00 Jonathan Ross, 10.00 Russ Williams, 1.00 Nick Abbot, 4.00 Robin Banks/FM only Ray Coles, from 6.45pm, 7.30 Ray Coles, 10.00 Mark Forster, 2.00 Peter Poulton, 5.00 - 7.00 Jeremy Clark.

World Service
(98kHz LW)

1.00 Newsdesk, 1.30 Westway, 1.45 Britain Today, 2.00 Newsdesk, 2.30 Seven Days, 2.45 Border Run, 3.00 Newsday, 3.30 On Screen, 4.00 World News, 4.05 World Business Report, 4.15 Sports Roundup, 4.30 The World Today (0430-0700/Insight (SW 5875kHz only), 4.45 Off the Shelf, Outlook (SW 5875kHz only), 5.30

Candido (SW 7235kHz only), 5.55 - 6.30 Take Five (SW 750kHz).

Talk Radio
(1053, 1089 kHz, MW)

6.30 News Talk Radio Breakfast Show, 9.00 Scott Chisholm, 12.00 Lorraine Kelly, 2.00 Tommy Boyd, 4.00 Peter Deane, 7.00 Anna Raeburn, 9.00 James Whelan, 1.00 Ian Collins and the Creatures of the Night, 5.00 - 6.30 The Early Show with Bill Overton.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

NIGEL SHORT had an excellent result in the Keres Memorial tournament in Estonia, taking first place with a score of 7 out of 9, two points ahead of his nearest rivals. This rounded off a superb week for English chess, which had begun with Michael Adams sharing first place at Dortmund.

Short's result in the Keres memorial might have been better still, as his opponents in some of the games he drew were fortunate to escape. In the following game against an Indonesian grandmaster, Short played solidly to maintain his advantage from the opening, then took advantage of the weaknesses his opponent created when trying to free his position. White won a pawn at move 25, but gave it back to launch a K-side attack.

When Short sacrificed a piece with 41.Bxf7 it was a miracle that Black survived. After 43.Rxh6+ Black cannot take the rook without losing his queen to a knight fork, but it seems extraordinary that White has no forced win after 43...Kg8.

When an endgame was reached, White had three passed pawns for a bishop, but Adams showed how the minor piece can hold them up. At the end, there was no way for White to make progress.

White: Nigel Short
Black: Utut Adianto

1 e4 g6	34 Nxe5 Re8
2 d4 Bg7	35 f4 Rxb2
3 Nc3 c5	36 Qg3 Re8
4 d5 d6	37 h3 Rb1+
5 Nb5 Bg4	38 Rxb1 Rxb1+
6 Be2 Rxb3	39 Kh2 Ne4
7 Bxf3 Nf6	40 Qe3 Nd6
8 0-0-0	41 Bxf7 Nxf7
9 Re1 Nf7	42 Rxe6+ Kh8
10 Rd1 Na6	43 Rxh6+ Kg8
11 a4 Ne7	44 Rg6+ Kh8
12 Be3 a6	45 Qd5 Nxe5
13 Qd2 Re8	46 Qh5+ Qh7
14 a5 Rb8	47 Qxe5 Bg7
15 Ra2 b5	48 Qg5 Rb8
16 axb6 Rxb6	49 h4 Rg8
17 Nd1 Qc8	50 c4 Bd4
18 c3 Nf6	51 Rxe6+ Qxe6
19 f3 e6	52 Qxe6+ Kxe6
20 dxe6 Nxe6	53 g4 Kg7
21 Nf5 Rd8	54 Kd3 Kd8
22 Bc4 Ne7	55 Kf3 Bc3
23 Rd1 Rb8	56 Kd4 Be1
24 Bg5 Ne6	57 h5+ Kh6
25 Bxe6 Qc7	58 Kd5 Bf2
26 Bc4 Nxe5	59 Ke6 Bd7
27 Qxe5 h6	60 Ke7 Bg4
28 Qd2 Qe7	61 Ke6 Bd4
29 Ra6 Bf8	62 Ke7 Bg7
30 Rdal Rd7	63 Ke6 Bd4
31 Nd5 Rb7	64 Ke6 Bc3
32 Qe1 Kg7	draw agreed
33 e5 dxe5	

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

RECONSTRUCTING A rubber bridge deal when you have not been personally at the table can be an uphill task. Here, although the players agree that the hand is right, I have heard four different versions of the auction, each tending to show the narrator in a favourable light. So, forget the hiding; the common factors of the different stories are that South ended in Three Hearts and East doubled.

West, who had bid the suit, led a low spade to dummy's king and the first round of trumps collected 100 for honours, going jack, queen, king and ace. West switched to a diamond and, after declarer had won on the table, the next round of trumps went 8, 9 and ten. South continued with ♠6 to East's seven and this left him with ♠5,3 while East still held ♠4,2. ♠A at last I can see why they told me about the hand.

East switched to ♣J. South played low, and West took his king. A spade came back and the finesse of the jack won. Declarer followed with ♣A, then crossed to the table with ♠A to lead ♣Q. East could have ruffed this and conceded the contract immediately, but he prolonged the agony by discarding a diamond. So did South, but when he led a diamond to East's queen, he could not resist letting this hold and throwing a spade. This left East on lead in the two-card ending and South's valuable ♠5,3 tenace was enough for the last two (highly unusual) tricks, sitting over a hapless East's ♠4,2.

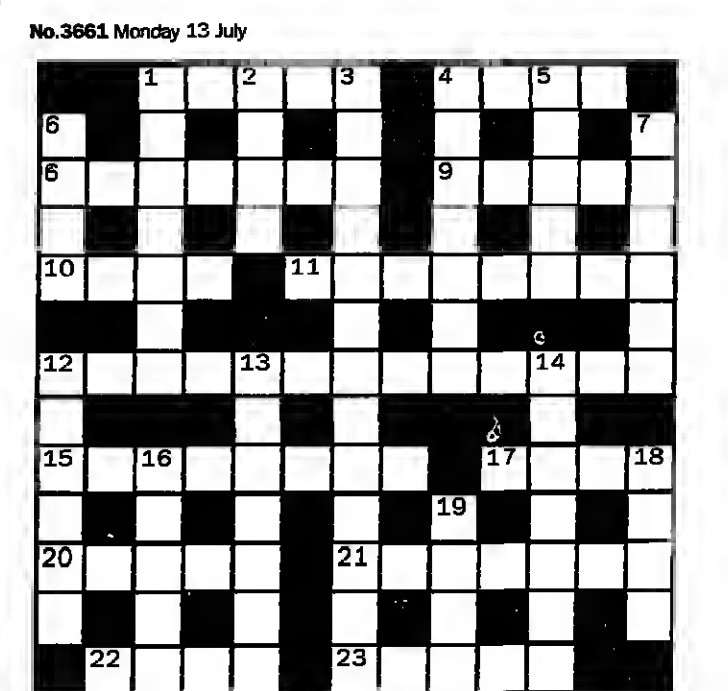
Love All; dealer North	
North	East
♠AKJ	♠64
♥J8	♥Q9742
♦AKJ4	♦Q953
♣Q762	♣J8
West	South
♠Q9872	♠1053
♥A	♥K10653
♦106	♦872
♣K10943	♣A5

PUZZLE

I SAW my old friend Professor Rebus pondering over a cash dispenser at the bank the other day. "The trouble is," he said, "I have changed my pin number and cannot, for the moment, recall it. All I remember is that it is a four-digit number which when reversed is four times itself. Can you help the professor out? (Answer tomorrow)

Friday's answer:
1) CAPITALISM is the odd one out: all the others have capital cities embedded within them: comPARISON, haROMEter, comFOSLOvskia, iRRIGATED and acCLIMATE.
2) MONETARIST: this time it's currency units: reMARKed, disenFRANCHised, caYENne, comPOUNDED, and nEUROtic.

CONCISE CROSSWORD



- | ACROSS | DOWN |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 Constellation (5) | 1 Speech (7) |
| 4 Art gallery (4) | 2 Mountain goat (4) |
| 8 Regional speech form (7) | 3 Conservation body (8,5) |
| 9 Courage (5) | 4 Trigonometrical function (7) |
| 10 Arrange for publication (4) | 5 Brief (5) |
| 11 Predic (8) | 6 Advantage (4) |
| 12 Old type of bicycle (5-8) | 7 Adjustment problem for long-haul passenger (13-3) |
| 15 Water (8) | 12 King's son (6) |
| 17 Church recess (4) | 13 Dairy food (7) |
| 20 Rodent (5) | 14 Confine (7) |
| 21 Ill-mannered (7) | 16 Man-made fibre (5) |
| 22 Small port detachment (4) | 18 Reflected sound (4) |
| 23 Border river (5) | 19 Highest point (4) |

Solution to last Saturday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Terraced, 5 Rock (Terror-struck), 9 Rumba, 10 Unberve, 11 Astonished, 14 Insupportable, 16 Prop school, 20 Orgrim, 21 Brute, 22 Yank, 23 Ethereal. DOWN: 1 Terrapin, 2 Remotest, 3 Aguin, 4 Emulsion paint, 6 Ogre, 7 Keep, 8 Invert, 12 Absolute, 13 Pell-mell, 15 Pariah, 17 Cable, 18 Torry, 19 Kiln.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

Sky Movies Screen 1
6.00 L'Avventura (1960) (88761329), 8.00 Citizens Band (1977) (8442410), 10.00 Bed of Roses (1996) (24752), 11.30 Paris in the Spring (1956) (5333), 1.00 Citizens Band (1977) (8442410), 3.00 Bed of Roses (1996) (24752), 5.00 Magic Island (1996) (84439), 7.00 Paris in the Spring (1956) (5333), 9.00 The Movie Show (1996), 9.00 Cable Guy (1996) (835269), 10.45 Feeling Minnesota (1997) (325664), 12.25 Married People, Single Sex 2 (1995) (21801), 2.30 Dead Cold (1995) (440882), 3.40 - 6.00 The Untold (1989) (8165795).

Sky Movies Screen 2
6.05 Garden of Evil (1954) (5306899), 8.00 Desperate (1947) (882457), 9.45 Higher and Higher (1943) (28787), 11.15 A Girl Must Live (1939) (7357482), 12.30 It Came from Outer Space II (1936) (80581), 2.00 Garden of Evil (1954) (5306899), 4.00 Higher and Higher (1943) (28787), 6.00 It Came from Outer Space II (1936) (80581), 7.30 Special Feature (8313), 8.00 White Dwarf (1995) (6377), 10.00 The Glimmer Man (1996) (33385), 11.35 Jade (1995) (47222), 1.05 Living in Oblivion (1995) (81543), 3.25 - 3.35 The Weather Man (1994) (837752), 5.00 Heroic (1989) (845957), 6.00 Erik the Viking (1989) (827348), 11.35 Cruising (1980) (556048), 1.15 Bright Lights, Big City (1988) (888530), 3.05 The Seventh Sign (1988) (877393), 4.50 Close.

Sky Movies Screen 3
8.00 The A-Team (1986/2023), 9.00 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (1989/416), 9.30 Cops (1993/874), 10.00 Italian Stripping Housewives (1990/451), 10.30 Red Shoe Diaries (1993/228), 11.00 Film Stars: Horror: The Changing (1979) (312145), 1.00 Beverly Hills Bordello (1917/33), 1.30 Italian Stripping Housewives (1990/451), 2.00 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (1989/416), 2.30 Cops (1993/874), 3.00 Film Stars: Horror: (1989) (6708462), 3.00 - 8.00 The A-Team (1986/2023).

Discovery Channel
4.00 The Doberman (1986/145), 4.30 Top Menus (1992/229), 5.00 First Flight (1993/229), 5.30 History's Turning Points (1993/229), 6.00 Pick of the Day, 6.00 Animal Doctor (1980/34), 6.30 Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe (1980/34), 6.30 Adventures of the Quest (1975/57), 9.00

PICK OF THE DAY

PARIS HAS had its fair share of turmoil over the years' events such as the Prussian siege of 1870, the Commune of the following year, and more recently, the student-led protests of May 1968 spring readily to mind. History's Turning Points (5.30pm Discovery) takes a look at a much earlier uprising, the grand-mere and grand-pere of all insurrections - the French revolutions of 1789 and 1792. From revolution to revolutions, cycling is another area in which

the French have a proud tradition. For three days now the wheels of the competitors in the hardest race in the world have been turning not in France, but in Ireland. Itself home of Tourdeurs such as Sean Kelly, Stephen Roche (right) and Sean Yates. Live Cycling: Tour de France (1pm Eurosport) catches up with the riders on the second stage proper, a trip of 206km from Enniscorthy to Cork.



PETER CONCHIE

Shipwreck Titanic (1997/684), 11.00 Flightpath (1977/33), 12.00 First Flight (1977/33), 12.30 Top Marques (1994/375), 1.00 The Terror Technicians (1978/49), 2.00 Close.

Sky 1
7.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters from Beverly Hills (1995/8), 7.30 Games World (1984/28), 7.45 The Simpsons (1989/10), 8.00 Gillette World Sport (1992/44), 8.30 Gillette World Sport (1992/44), 9.00 Hotel (1993/3), 10.00 Another World (1977/7), 11.00 Days of Our Lives (1983/3), 12.00 Married with Children (1987/3), 12.30 M*A*S*H (1970/35), 1.25 Special K (1985/435), 1.00 Geralt (1975/58), 1.45 Special K (1985/435), 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (1944/87), 2.55 Special K (1985/435), 3.00 Jenny Jones (1979/7), 4.00 Oprah Winfrey (1989/4), 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1997/4), 6.00 The News (1993/3), 6.30 Married with Children (1987/3), 7.00 The Simpsons (1989/10), 7.30 Real TV (1993/3), 8.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1997/4), 9.00 Sideways (1994/8), 10.00 Chicago Hope (1997/4), 11.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1997/4), 12.00 Nash Bridges (1994/8), 12.30 Long Play (1997/35).

Sky Sports 1
7.00 Superbikes (2584), 9.00 Racing News (2313), 9.30 Aerobics (1980/1), 10.00 Beach Volleyball (1992/3), 10.30 Watersports World (1985/8), 11.30 Drag Racing (1985/3), 12.00 Aerobics (1980/1), 12.30 Superbikes (1980/1), 2.30 Australian Rules Football (1991/3), 4.30 Baywatch Nights (1997/1), 4.30 Jet Set World (1991/3), 5.00 World Tennis Bowling Masters

(3348), 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (5481), 6.30 Tales from the Premiership A Tale of Two Strikers (1997/3), 7.00 V-League (1997/3), 7.30 Survival of the Fittest (1997/3), 8.00 European Golf Skills Challenge (1993/3), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (5481), 10.30 Tales from the Premiership A Tale of Two Strikers (1997/3), 11.00 World Tennis Bowling Masters (1997/3), 11.35 Sky Sports Centre (5481), 12.00 European Golf Skills Challenge (1993/3), 12.30 International Bowls (1997/3), 1.00 Tales from the Premiership A Tale of Two Strikers (1997/3), 1.30 Sky Sports Centre (5481), 2.00 Close.

Sky Sports 2
7.00 Aerobics (1980/1), 7.30 Racing News (2313), 8.00 Beach Volleyball (1992/3), 8.30 Gillette World Sport (1992/44), 9.00 Drag Racing (1985/3), 9.30 Australian Rules Football (1991/3), 10.00 Ford Golf USA (1984/3), 10.30 Ford Golf USA - US Senior Players Championship (1997/3), 11.00 International Rugby Union Australia v New Zealand (1997/3), 11.30 Beach Volleyball (1992/3), 12.00 This Week in Baseball (1997/3), 12.30 Winning Post (1992/3), 1.00 Embassy World Eight Ball Championships (1997/3), 1.30 World Motor Sport (1997/3), 2.00 Close.

Sky Sports 3
12.00 World Tennis Bowling Masters (1997/3), 1.00 Americana Outdoors (1997/3), 1.30 Fishing Texas (1982/400), 2.00 This Week in Baseball (1997/3), 2.30 World Motor Sport (1997/3), 3.00 Close.

(1096110), 2.30 World Motor Sport (1997/3), 3.00 Close.

3.00 Survival of the Fittest (1997/3), 3.30 Tony Dean Outdoors (1997/225), 3.50 Fish TV (1994/226), 4.00 International Bowls (1997/3), 4.30 Sky Sports Classics (1997/3), 5.00 The Entertainers (1975/3), 5.30 Close.

Eurosport
7.30 Football: World Cup 98 (35618), 8.30 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 10.00 Football: World Cup 98 (35618), 11.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 12.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 1.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 2.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 3.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 4.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 5.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 6.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 7.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 8.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 9.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 10.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 11.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 12.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 1.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 2.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 3.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 4.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 5.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 6.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 7.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 8.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 9.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 10.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 11.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 12.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 1.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 2.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 3.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 4.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 5.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 6.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 7.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 8.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 9.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 10.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 11.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 12.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 1.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 2.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139), 3.00 Cycling: Tour de France (11139),

new low cost



WILLIAM HARTSTON

TELEVISION REVIEW

urban males and how frequently country music was played on the radio. This was not mentioned in the first of Channel 4's new series on country music. Naked Nashville. The stars of this programme, which was subtitled "I want ads for any man," were Joe Galante, the chairman of RCA records who explained that you don't have to be a tough bitch to succeed as a female country

luchador and religion worked well, with Moore managing to transcend a roster of routine questions and emerge as a disarmingly charming and intelligent fellow.

Having got over the railroad slot, without losing the football crowd, Granada tried to keep their attention with World Cup Rock'n'Roll Years, which set out to be a sort of music-footballing anthology of music from 1960 until the present day. The parody, Sean Bean, attempted a limp justification of the idea when he said, "and for several weeks

you seemed to be doing her best to prove him wrong.

Apparently, one mark of success in the business is that your fans drop your surname. It helps if you are called Tanning or Mindy or Babe, of course. Dolly Parton maneuvered with the Parton given before she might have been mistaken for a cloned sheep. Ms. McCrassy began this programme as one of the Nasrallah Impulses of whom only a per cent achieve their dream of landing a "wrecker ally" from Joe Gheblano.

Cup there were the songs that provided the sound track," then we heard the Kinks singing "Sunny Afternoon" and the Troggs clogging out "Wild Thing," and Bobby Charlton scored a magnificent goal against Mexico, and it became clear that the music had nothing to do with the football, and the whole compilation was just an excuse to wallow in pop.

1966: *The new world is in the marketplace.*

It was a year of pop music that was reminiscent of the young Glam. Close in one of her more faintly attractive roles, and the voice of a yodelling sister, Mandy Patinkin 21, is being groomed for superstardom. "Pop a rustic" one punned in country music, "she's got to have that thing about her, she's a babe." Judding by the mastodon her name exerted on the eponymous, Mandy has it.

been made of Nancy Sinatra's "Jesse Boes was Made for Walking", but perhaps the script had enough tenuous links. While the programme was still in 1966, we heard: "The film of the year was *Alfie* (cue song, "What's It All About, Alfie"), but there was more than one all-making his mark, this year." Enter Alf Ramsey and World Cup glory. If that programme had claimed a causal relationship between the pop charts and World Cup success, it would have been right. It's not.

however, carries the real problem. "The bull-dogging is just sickening," she says. "If this talent can crumble down and do what Glaxo plants, we could be in for a dramatic rise in the suicide rate among white urban American males."

BBCI

5.00 *Business Week* (198339), **2.00** News (7) (58110)
5.00 *AI over the Shop* (7) (5) (27058), **5.50** *Kitty*
 (7) (3383939), **10.00** *Meet the Challenges* (5)
 (569507), **10.25** *Style Challenge Classics* (5)
 (569507), **10.25** *Short Changes* (5) (745871), **11.00** *News*
 (Regional News: Weather (7) (585874), **11.05** *Pole to*
Pole (7) (7) (764510), **11.25** *News*, *Regional News*
Weather (7) (5833705), **12.00** *Every Second Counts* (7)
 (5) (7) (4836), **12.50** *Can't Cook, Won't Cook* (5) (7)
 (972510), **12.55** *Beautiful Things* (7) (5) (2081972),
1.00 *News*, *Weather* (7) (4587), **1.30** *Regional News*
 (5558481), **1.40** *Neighbors* (5) (7) (5406435), **2.05**
Perry Mason (7) (5400424).

3.35 *Children's BSC: Noddy* (7) (5) (722007), **3.45**
Playdate (7) (5) (568339), **4.05** *Poppy* (7) (5875762),
4.10 *Casper* (7) (5) (572724), **4.25** *501st* (5) (7)
 (5155385), **5.00** *Newsround* (7) (5) (30356), **5.50** *Blue*
Peter - *Canada Completion* (5) (7) (575395).

5.35 *Majibababoo* - *Have Josh and Gailie come to the end*
of the road, they say? (7) (512355).

6.00 *News Weather* (7) (757).

6.30 *Regional News*, and *weather* (7) (39).

BB02

7:00 **Children's BBC**, **Tales from the Woodlands** (4:55-5:25), **7:25** **Dr. Who**, **Little Dinosaur** (8:07-8:30), **7:50-8:05** **Playhouse** (8:05-8:30), **8:10** **Willy Wag** (8:25-8:55), **8:35** **Ready, Steady, Trucks** (8:05-8:55), **8:45** **Henry and the Handcuffs** (9:10), **9:20-9:42**, **8:50** **Hewytown** (9:35-9:59), **9:50** **Cartoon** (9:50-9:57), **10:00** **Cartoon** (9:50-9:57), **10:00** **Cartoon** (9:50-9:57), **10:00** **Noble Thought** (9:50-9:57), **10:00** **Noble Thought** (9:50-9:57).

10:40 **Ferry to Hong Kong** (Lame Gilbert 1986 UK), **With Ocean Weibes and Curt Jurgens** (7) (8:33-8:55).

12:30 **Working Lunch** (7:55), **1:00** **The Spacecraft** (Garden 14:35), **1:30** **People's Channel** (14:45-15:15), **2:25** **The Phil Stevens Show** (5:55-6:30), **2:50** **News: Regional News** (5:55-6:30), **3:25** **News: Weather** (7) (14:55).

3:30 **Alan Crazy in Love** (Marlin Condon 1992 US), **Alone-Part** (romantic comedy) with **Holly Hunter**, **Gene Hackman** and **Bill Pullman** (5) (7) (23:55).

5:00 **The Victorian Kitchen Garden** (7) (5) (7) (26:15), **5:30** **Antiques Treasures Trail** (5) (31:25), **5:55** **A Day That Shook the World** (7) (34:35).

6:30 **The Simpsons** (Hedgehogs, **Special 1**, **Bar** and **7**), **Lessons of Edgar Allan Poe** ("The Raven") (7) (37:00-42:30).

8:20 **Space 1999**, **A mysterious power from an alien planet takes control of the moon** (7) (39:45).

ITV Carlton

5.40 GMTV (3/35023),
7.28 Extreme Dinosaur (9738056), **8.55 Judge Judy** (R)
10.00 (4003594), **10.25 London Today** (T) (2462228),
10.30 FILM Danielle Steel's Bay, (Michael Malar, 1993
 US), *Baywatch* fills 602.0 starlet Jenna Gartner plays a
 young ambulance putting personal tragedy behind her
 and taking the word by storm, etc etc (S) (T) (98231435),
12.20 Your Show (433571), **12.30 News: Weather** (5545),
1.00 London to Go (39885), **1.30 The Jerry Springer
 Show** (55574), **1.45 Home and Away** (53584), **2.45
 Baby Mamas** (31985), **3.45 News** (982303),
3.25 Children's TV, for TV (536359), **3.58 Carpool
 Kitchen** (S) (70354), **3.45 Brimble Barker** (T) (702240),
4.00 Warner Cartoons (93270), **4.20 Fridge Friends**
 (R) (T) (4935431), **4.40 Brilliant Creatures** (T) (753664),
5.10 Home and Away (S) (T) (5723232),
5.40 News Weather (T) (34787),
6.00 London Tonight (T) (935),
6.30 London Bridge, Capital case, Noel is worried about
 Diana's trip to Ghana (S) (435).

Channel 4

9.00 THE Big Breakfast (S) (T) (5/34/38).
9.00 THE Night in the Fourth (Cummings 1964) US. Don Ameable, dubbed by Alan. Over him critic Pauline Kael, "the prince that snags," "a most credible role (that's twice nothing)." In the musical comedy of mistaken identities set down Rio de Janeiro with Carmen Miranda singing "I Y I Y I Y I Like You Very Much," and Alice Faye just looks beautiful (T) (6/3/38/85).

10.40 Cyclists Abroad (17/8/85). **11.00 Baby Face** (F) (S) (6/87). **11.30 Australia** with (5/5/53). **12.00 Sasama Street** (S) (3/78). **12.30 Light Lunch** (F) (S) (T) (7/86). **1.30 Belgium** (revised) (6/8/89/91).

2.00 THE The Sins Lamp (Geal Dearden 1950) UK. Classic, semi-documentary-style British crime drama starring Jack Warner and John Bognardo (T) (3/33/38).

3.00 Wagtail The Sins Lamp (Geal Dearden 1950) UK. Classic, semi-documentary-style British crime drama starring Jack Warner and John Bognardo (T) (3/33/38).

4.55 THE The Sins Lamp (Geal Dearden 1950) UK. Classic, semi-documentary-style British crime drama starring Jack Warner and John Bognardo (T) (3/33/38).

5.30 Wagtail The Sins Lamp (Geal Dearden 1950) UK. Classic, semi-documentary-style British crime drama starring Jack Warner and John Bognardo (T) (3/33/38).

6.00 Tour de France. The final day in Ireland sees the riders set out from Enniscorthy to Cork on a relatively flat 200km stage (5/87).

6.30 Hollyhocks. Chester yachts. A witness claims that Sol

Channel 5

[illegible]

INVESTIGATION OF THE DAY

PLACID WARS (19pm BBC1, 1996) Some 30 years ago, Britain, America and the Soviet Union signed a treaty to halt all research into offensive biological weapons. The Soviets didn't sign, however, in fact they foisted their efforts, secretly amassed that they had a clear field for the development of the offspring of all weapons of mass destruction. By the 1980s they had inter-continental missiles trained on all western cities, with London their first target for anthrax, ebola, smallpox and cholera plague viruses. In the first of two special Panorama reports, Tim Mangan looks at Soviet plans to return the West to the Middle Ages.

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

REPUTATIONS: MARIA CALLAS (from BBC2, 1991)
The first superstar of opera times Caruso, Maria Callas dominated the opera stage from 1949 until 1968, and her love affair with Aristotle Onassis was one of the equivalent of the Elizabeth Taylor/Richard Burton saga. (Maria Callas's ex-husband, Demis, was Onassis's son, but Maria Davidson's show here isn't that unexciting; her love was finally undone by Jo Herlihy and another mother took her from the treatment.) New York to Athens, where she survived the Second World War. Was powerful and cunning and Cool War – only to sacrifice and later Onassis dumped her for Jacqueline Kennedy.



FILM OF THE DAY

THE OLDEST GRAD (115pp/\$9.95) Often seen as an Australian director with an unusually European sensibility, Paul Cox — or Paulus Henriques Benedictus Cox as he was born — was to find brought up in the Netherlands and didn't move down under until the early twenties. This means his tragically-comedy gender war from 1981, based on a Guy de Maupassant short story, has a rich, painterly surface, and a dark, northern European mood. Chris Hayward (*Frailty*) is excellent as a beautiful cross-dresser who collects with antique time-pieces and beautiful women, and who becomes obsessed with a local doctor she finds hidden in a dresser.

